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History of African Mission

History of Muhlenberg Mission West Africa

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Communications Concerning the African Mission from the Sailing of the Missionaries from Baltimore – Feb. 23rd 1860. From these the history of the Mission may be gathered.

Lutheran Observer March 2nd 1860

FAREWELL MISSIONARY MEETING.

A few weeks ago we stated that Rev. Mr. Officer and Mr. Higart would shortly leave for Africa, to commence a new mission not far from Liberia. Since then, these brethren have been actively engaged in making their preparations, and providing an outfit, such as clothing for little Africans, books for their school, and lumber to construct a school-house after their arrival. As the vessel was expected to sail on the 23d ult., a farewell meeting was appointed to be held in Dr. Morris' church on the Sunday evening previous to the day fixed for their departure. The exercises were opened with a stirring missionary hymn, and prayer was offered by Rev. T. Kemp. Dr. Morris then delivered an address, in which, after alluding to the object of the meeting, he presented the claims of the cause of foreign missions, and showed that instead of interfering with the home work, these efforts to evangelize the heathen exerted a beneficial influence on the churches in christian lands, and that the congregations which contributed most to sustain the Gospel abroad, were the most prosperous.—The doctor ably exhibited the importance of the enterprise in which these brethren are engaged, and maintained that this African mission had special claims upon our churches in Maryland.

After Dr. Morris had concluded his remarks, we delivered a parting address to the missionaries, assured them of the interest which the congregation felt in this work, and tendered them our sympathy in their trials, good wishes for their health and preservation, and our united prayers for their success.—After this address, Rev. Officer rose and explained their plan of operations, gave an interesting account of the cause of missions in Africa, and related many incidents connected with his former residence and labors in Africa. He said our duty to preach the Gospel to the heathen was not to be determined by the measure of success realized, it grew out of the command—Go preach the Gospel. His hope of success is mainly in the rising generation, hence they gather the children into schools and educate them, and thus ultimately expect to christianize the nation.

On Thursday, the 23d ult., the brig in which they had taken passage left her wharf, and is now on her voyage to Liberia. The members of the Lutheran church in this city took a lively interest in assisting the missionaries in their preparations, and they are well supplied with all needful comforts for their voyage, and the prosecution of their work after they arrive there.

And now, with favoring winds and a propitious Providence, the long, earnest, and indefatigable labors of br. Officer are about to

crowned with success. It was during the meeting of the General Synod at Dayton, some five years ago, that at the request of brethren, we drew up a plan for the African mission. It was then the design of the originators to establish a school in this country for the education of colored men to be sent out as missionaries to Africa; and while we had not much confidence in the feasibility of the project, we did not interpose any objections, as we knew that the measure was favored by many esteemed brethren. It was upon that basis that br. Officer commenced operations; but after patient deliberation, the plan was changed, so that the school will be located in Africa. We were convinced from the first, that the institute could be carried on more efficiently and cheaper, and with more success on the field where the mission is to be conducted, and we are gratified that the school will now soon be opened not far from Liberia. We can now sustain it with all our heart, and have no doubt that it will be the means of accomplishing immense good for Africa.

In a work of this kind, we should not look for immediate results. We cannot have a spiritual seed time to-day and reap the harvest to-morrow. It is a work which links itself with the future destiny of Africa, and its wisdom and benevolence will unfold in eternity. The two brethren may not see any of those little ones whom they will gather into their school now, christians or missionaries in their lifetime; but future ages may be gladdened by the influence of their present labors. A thousand years are as a day with the Lord, and as this mission is connected with the kingdom of Jesus, it has in its very germ the elements of permanency and immortality. Let the church pray that God may give them a safe voyage, preserve their health, and make this mission subservient to his own glory.

THE AFRICAN MISSION.

It affords us great pleasure to be able to announce to the friends of this Mission the safe arrival in Africa of Rev. M. Officer, the superintendent, and the young man who accompanied him as a teacher. The voyage was pleasant and their health good. The subjoined letter, though brief, will be read with lively interest by the many friends of Mr. Officer, who will rejoice that he and his fellow-laborer are now in the field, and that by this time a fair beginning has been made. This Mission will doubtless accomplish great good for benighted Africa, and if fervent piety and indefatigable energy can give it speedy success under God's blessing, we may before long expect to hear encouraging news of its progress. In the meantime let the church pray that God may overshadow them with his wings, and give his angels charge concerning them, and abundantly bless this and all our other missions in heathen lands.

Monrovia, Liberia, April 12, 1860.

DEAR BR. ANSPACH:—After a voyage of nearly thirty-five days from the mouth of the Chesapeake bay, we landed here safely and in good health on the 5th of April. Our passage was a most pleasant one, for we had neither violent winds or protracted calms, and our captain, (Morgan,) other officers and crew were as kind and obliging as men can be.

On landing here I met many old friends with whom I had become acquainted when here more than six years ago, and they greeted me most cordially. Among these are Hon. B. V. R. James, Bishop Burns, and Rev. Herring. Monrovia has improved considerably since I saw it before, and the people appear to be advancing in intelligence, wealth and virtue.

Before leaving the United States it was our design to examine, among the first, the country about the falls of the river Sinoe, south-east of this place. But having here learned that two Presbyterian (colored) missionaries have just fixed upon a point in that vicinity, we have concluded to visit the high lands on the St. Paul's river. We have therefore landed and carefully stored our goods and what building material we have at this place, to remain until we have selected a site.

As it is the prevailing opinion that t[illegible] inland country is much more healthful th[illegible] the coast, and as we hope to procure lodgi[illegible] for br. Heigerd during at least a part of the rains at some one of the upper settlements, he has avoided the malaria of the coast by

sleeping on board the "Palmas" every night till last night, when he came ashore to prepare for going up the river to-day.

Owing to our delay of two months at Baltimore, we have but little time for exploring till rains set in, when it will be inconvenient to travel. The little time that remains is important. I cannot, therefore, now do anything in the way of letter writing. But as the "Ocean Eagle," of New York, is daily expected here on her homeward trip, I have thus hastily written a few lines, and will have them sent by her to the United States.

We desire not to be forgotten by the people of earnest and believing prayer. Our undertaking is a difficult one—more so than our brethren at home can realize.

M. Officer.

Original.

For the Lutheran Observer.

Harrisburg, St. Paul's, *Liberia, Africa, June* 18, 1860.

Rev. Wm. H. Harrison, Chairman of Committee of African Mission:

Dear Sir:—Owing to our protracted delay at Baltimore, we did not reach the Liberian coast until the 5th day of April, being near the close of the dry season. As we were anxious to select a location before the approaching rains, so that we might at least do some planting this season, we deferred all correspondence, and hastened to seek a suitable situation for our proposed mission school. Hoping that this will serve as a sufficient apology for our long silence, I will now render a brief report of our doings, although we have accomplished but little.

You will recollect that the several localities before the minds of the Committee and of ourselves on leaving the United States were, first, the territory inland from Monrovia on the St. Paul's river; second, the country about the falls of the Sinoe river; third, the Cape Mount region; and fourth, the Highlands on the Junk river.

On arriving at Monrovia, we learned that two Presbyterian missionaries had just located at the falls of the Sinoe, and we therefore at once decided not to enter that field.—We ascertained from Bishop Burns, of the Methodist Episcopal church, that they had recently enlarged their operations in the Cape Mount country, and that they intended in future still to increase their force in that district; and we consequently determined not to visit that part of the Republic at present.—We found that Carysburg is situated immediately inland from the first elevated lands on the Junk river, and as we were desirous of having a wide, unoccupied field inland from us, we did not consider that a desirable point for us.

The territory on the north side of the St. Paul's river, however, remained entirely unoccupied, there being no settler or mission station from Millsburg to the vast interior in an easterly direction, and none from this to the Big Boon river in the north-west. We therefore determined upon landing and storing our building materials and other effects at Monrovia, and proceed, as soon as possible, to examine this interesting country.

Accordingly, six days after, we came to anchor in the Roadstead of Monrovia. We set out in our beautiful little *mission boat*, purchased by the three English Lutheran Sunday Schools of Philadelphia, Penn'a, and now manned by two experienced boatmen of the Kroo tribe, who rowed us to White Plains, opposite Millsburg, the same evening. Here we were hospitably entertained during the night by Miss Killpatrick, who has charge of the White Plains boarding school for girls. On the following morning, we ascended the first rapids of the river to the Harrisburg settlement, and stopped at the house of Mr. Simon Harrison, who is the highest settler on the river, and who has charge of a school and small church under the patronage of the Presbyterian Board. This place is on the south-east side of the river, and is a high and beautiful situation, completely overlooking the lower rapids, and also Millsburg on the opposite side.

As the Highlands are considered more healthy than the coast, and as it was necessary for both br. Heigerd and myself to be on shore while landing and storing our goods, he had remained on board the vessel every night till we were ready to come up the river; and now, as it would not be prudent for him to accompany me, especially in my longer tours through the country, and as this place was both suitable for him to remain at, and also convenient for me to stop at, while examining the country opposite and above, we immediately took boarding and lodging with Mr. Harrison, and have since made his house our home.

The first thing to ascertain was, whether boats and canoes could ascend the river above the short space of comparatively calm water that stretches along and above this place.—Accordingly, on the next morning after our arrival at Mr. Harrison's, I procured a canoe, which was better suited for making the narrow passes between the rocks than our boat, and also some men who were somewhat acquainted with the channel, and proceeded up the river. We passed over several heavy ripples, caused by ledges of rocks extending across the stream and elevating its bed, still hoping to reach a long stretch of slack water. But the rapids only became more frequent and more

violent, obliging us several times to disembark and draw our canoe over the falls by means of ropes. After ascending about four miles, and finding that the men were becoming weary, I left all but one of them with the canoe, and walked, or rather clambered, along the banks of the river some four miles further, when I reached a point at which the water spreads out to an unusual width over a rocky bottom, and then dividing into numerous branches, rushes furiously and with a loud roar through the deep, narrow, and tortuous gorges, which the floods of ages have worn in the fractured rocks. Of course we now knew that this part of the river is not navigable, even for canoes, and the day being Saturday, and now pretty far spent, we hastened back to our canoe, and having embarked, we alternately glided and plunged through the water, and in less than two hours, made the landing at this place.

Being now satisfied that we could not depend on the river for transportation any considerable distance above this place, and knowing the difficulty of making roads through the African forests, we proceeded to examine the lands about the head of the slack water which extends along and above this place, hoping to find a suitable site which might be reached by water during part of the year, and also by land from Millsburg, without subjecting the mission to great expense in making a road.

Owing to the fact that nearly all the good land in this country is covered with an almost impenetrable jungle, and that there are only a few narrow, winding paths made by the natives from village to village, the work of examining the locality mentioned proved very tedious. We had to employ men to aid us in cutting *passes* rather than paths through those portions that we wished to examine, and in this work we spent more than a week. We, however, had the pleasure of finding high, rolling land, a rich soil, and as good water as I have seen elsewhere in Africa; and we also found that a road could be made to Millsburg with but little cost.

Although well satisfied with the particular place which I have already mentioned, still we thought it desirable to know more of the country beyond it. I therefore made several tours further back from the river, and further inland, and everywhere found high, undulating land, with here and there deep gorges, or small portions of wet surface, a fertile soil, and numerous small streams of running water. The native population is rather sparse in this region, but the people seem desirous to have missionaries among them, and especially to have schools for their children. One chief, with whom I lodged a night during one of my tours up the river, expressed, in strong terms, his desire that I would establish a school in his town, which is about twelve miles from this place. The head man of a small town between Millsburg and the place which I have more particularly described, has done all he can, both by kind words and friendly offices, to induce us to settle near his town. Also, another chief of a larger town, some two miles further off, desires his children and those of his people to attend a mission school.

By the time we had made these explorations, the rains began to fall, and it became more necessary to decide at once upon a location, and endeavor to clear and plant a small lot, and also, perhaps, erect a temporary building for some one that we might employ to plant trees and take care of the place during the rains, or else defer all efforts of the kind till next dry season. We were much perplexed—we felt the need of divine direction, and we sincerely sought it. At length we selected a site a short distance above this place, on the opposite side of the river, and commenced clearing a place for planting and building. But owing partly to the scarcity of laborers in the planting season, and partly to the frequent interruptions by the rains, we have made but little progress. We have planted a small lot, and have a site for a building cleared off, on one of the beautiful elevations which the tract that we have selected embraces. A few evenings since, by means of a spirit level, we ascertained that the site is ninety feet above the water in the river in front of it.

As soon as we had decided upon the above location, we made the following application to President Stephen A. Benson for a grant of land:

Harrisburg, Liberia, May 29, 1860.

To his Excellency, Stephen A. Benson, President of Liberia:

Dear Sir:—Having been authorized and sent by the General Synod of the Lutheran church in the United States to select a situation and found a mission in Liberia or the adjoining territory, and having made a selection of a site within the domains of the Republic, and knowing the favorable disposition of your government, and of yourself personally to the cause of christian missions, we hereby, and in behalf of our General Synod, respectfully solicit from you, as the chief Executive of Liberia, a donation of land for the use of our proposed mission.

The plan of our mission is, to commence with a *Manual Labor* school, into which we will receive the children of the heathen natives, and also orphan Liberians, and train them in the common arts of civilized life, as well as in the ordinary branches of an English education, and the doctrines and duties of christianity. And as the cultivation of the soil will form a prominent part of our

operations, we will need about one hundred acres of land for a mission farm and premises. This amount we are led to hope your government will be able to grant to our General Synod for the purpose already named.

It is, moreover, contemplated by our church in the United States, as soon as practicable, to form around the mission a small settlement of colored people who may be partial to our religious faith and usages, and thus enable them to form a church of their choice. We therefore desire, in behalf of our General Synod, to secure some two hundred acres of land adjoining the mission lands for the formation of such a settlement under the supervision of the mission. We do not propose to purchase the two hundred acres from the government, nor do we ask that it be granted for the use of the mission, but only that it be reserved for such settlers from America or elsewhere as, on the one hand, are entitled to draw land, or are willing to purchase it from the government, and on the other, would be desired as members of the mission settlement.

Our reasons for thus desiring to form a *Lutheran* community, rather than a promiscuous one, are simply that in our opinion, the settling together of people holding the same religious views will save the unnecessary expense of sustaining several churches in the same limited town or neighborhood, where one would be amply sufficient for the number of people, and that a community united in one religious body, and under the influence of a single pastor, will more fully attain that harmony of feeling, and concert of action, which are so necessary in new and feeble settlements.

The tract of land which we are desirous of obtaining is situated on the north-west side of St. Paul's river, immediately above the lands occupied by the native chief, Jolla Billa, and his people. It extends along the river about one-half a mile, and back from the river about one mile in a north-westerly direction, embracing some three hundred acres.—One hundred acres of this tract we desire for the use of the mission proper, and the balance as a reserve for settlers.

In order that the reservation may not retard the improvement of the country by remaining unoccupied after the land around it is taken up and improved, it might be limited to seven years from the date of the grant, so that if the mission does not procure settlers to occupy the land in that time, the reservation of the unoccupied part be void.

In conclusion, we would only add, we propose, on the part of the mission, to bear the expense of surveying the three hundred acres or entire tract, so that the government will be put to less cost in running off the separate lots than if no lines had been made—since the lines of the reserve will also be the outer lines of the lots.

We hope that this request may not be inconsistent with the policy of your government with regard to missions, and that we may soon have a favorable reply. Yours with true christian regard,

M. Officer, Sup't,
H. Heigerd, Ass't.

To this communication President Benson promptly replied as follows:

Revs. Messrs. Officer and Heigerd:

Gentlemen:—I am in receipt of your communication of the 29th ult., setting forth the object of your mission to Liberia, the auspices under which you will operate, and the outlines of the plan of your operations; and in view of your missionary operations being contemplated to be conducted on the manual labor system, for the improvement of heathen children, as also Liberian orphans—the cultivation of the soil forming a prominent part of your operations—you make request that this government make a grant of one hundred acres of land to your mission for a farm and mission premises. You also solicit that two hundred acres more of the land, adjoining the hundred acres, be held in reservation by this government, for the purpose of apportioning lots to such colored immigrants or settlers as may, in view of the harmony of their religious faith and usages, with those of the Lutheran church, prefer settling thereon within the next seven years, after which term, such of the lots as may not be occupied as above, to be apportioned as the government may think proper, to immigrants, settlers, or others, promiscuously.

In reply, I beg to say that, in view of the very laudable object contemplated by your mission, this government will grant one hundred acres of land for a mission farm and premises, as set forth in your communication, which grant will be made on the same conditions that similar grants are made to religious and benevolent societies by this government, i. e., that the area granted shall revert to government whenever the objects for which the grant was made cease to be prosecuted by the mission.

The two hundred acres adjoining will be held in reservation by government for the apportionment of lots, under the laws of this Republic, to immigrants or settlers, and this government promises to consult the Superintendent of your mission in apportioning any of the lots of the aforesaid area within seven years from date, so as to secure, as far as can be done, in consonance with the laws and usages of this Republic, the object of your church respecting denominational settlers, as set forth in your communication.

The laws of this Republic will extend to and over that contemplated christian community or settlement, in common with all other parts of the Republic.

This government does not pay for the survey of any lands except those sold at the Land Commissioners' sales. The American Colonization Society has hitherto paid for surveying land for such emigrants as they send to Liberia. The desired tract can be selected from any unappropriated lands above the settlement of Millsburg, and may have a front on the river of one hundred and sixty rods, equal to half a mile, and may extend back sufficiently far, at right angles, to constitute an area of three hundred acres—provided, however, that a sufficient space shall be left for a street or good public road, running along and parallel to the river bank.—With my best wishes, gentlemen, for the success of your very laudable enterprize, and for your personal health and welfare, I have the honor to be most respectfully, and very truly, your humble servant, STEPHEN A. BENSON.

I will yet append a copy of my reply to the above letter from the President:

Monrovia, Liberia, June 14, 1860.

To his Excellency, Stephen A. Benson, President of Liberia:

DEAR SIR:—Your very obliging communication of the 6th instant, in reply to a petition which my associate and myself had presented to your Excellency, soliciting from the government of Liberia a grant of land for a mission farm and premises, and also a reservation of land adjoining that of the mission, for the formation of a mission settlement, came to hand several days since, and would have received an earlier reply, but illness for nearly a week past has prevented me from attending to any business whatever.

The favors so cordially extended in your letter are all, I think, the mission desires—being a grant of one hundred acres of land to the mission proper, and a reservation of two hundred acres more adjacent to the mission for such settlers as the mission may select or recommend during seven years from the date of the grant.

We of course understand that in case the mission ceases to use the land granted for the purpose named in the petition, it reverts to the government; but we also understand that by the laws of Liberia, the mission may sell any and all improvements that it may in the the meantime make upon the grounds, the land only reverting to the government.

We shall, therefore, as soon as practicable, have the three hundred acres surveyed, and then the partition lines can be made in a more favorable season of the year.

And now, sir, please accept our grateful acknowledgments of your great kindness to us and to our mission, and be assured of our hearty desire for your personal well-being and the prosperity of the government over which you preside. Most respectfully and sincerely yours, M. OFFICER.

Owing to the inclemency of the weather, we have not yet had the lands run off, but we intend to have it done as soon as possible, so that we may have no collision with those who may desire to take up land in that vicinity.

It might be thought by some that two hundred acres constitute but a small reserve for future settlement, but when it is remembered that owing to the kind of products here cultivated, the farms are small, and that each settler draws but five acres of land from the government, it will be seen that we have made provision for a considerable number of settlers.

It may also appear strange to some that a district embracing the advantages above mentioned, should remain unoccupied after other localities are supplied with missions. To us who are on the ground a sufficient reason is found in the fact that many of the mission sites are chosen with a reference to the amount of trade in palm oil, camwood, ivory, &c. in the locality selected. Each missionary is almost necessitated to keep on hand American and English goods with which to purchase food from the natives, and to pay native laborers; and this opens the way for a more general traffic in native products, which again are sold to merchants or traders at the ports. It must be acknowledged that this temptation has in many instances deeply injured the mission work, both by leading to less advantageous situations, and by occupying the time and attention of the missionaries. In the district, however, which we have entered, the traffic is small, as on account of its ease of access from the coast, the camwood and ivory have for years been exhausted; and being high and rolling land, it is not adapted to the production of palm oil, which is by far most abundant in the low flat regions, and is now the principal export of the Republic.

We feel satisfied that a greater number of advantages cannot be secured in any other

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For the Lutheran Observer.

LETTER FROM REV. M. OFFICER, MISSIONARY IN AFRICA.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Two slavers, the "Storm King" and "Erie," have recently been captured at or near the Congo river by the two United States cruisers, San Jacinto, captain Doenin, and Mohican, captain Godon, and after being brought to this place, discharged in the aggregate about fifteen hundred native Africans, chiefly of the Congo tribe, and for the most part youths of the male sex. These fifteen hundred people are now here under the care of Rev. John Seys, United States agent for re-captured slaves, and will, in the early part of next week, be distributed to such persons as may be recommended by a committee made up of men from the several settlements in the county. I came down from Muhlenberg yesterday for the purpose of procuring some twenty-five or thirty of these natives, provided I can get that number of the proper age, to be put into our school. Our arrangements at the station are now so far completed that in a few days we could take into our care at least twenty-five children and begin regular instruction, as our own house is quite comfortable and large enough to accommodate for the time not only ourselves, but also such helps as we must have, and we have almost completed a large "country" or thatch house for the boys. This, together with such huts as we can erect in a short time, will afford shelter till we can construct more capacious and durable buildings.

Perhaps, however, if we take the number mentioned, we will, for a few weeks, rent a house at Millsburg, about three miles below our place, and keep the children there till we can complete our arrangements at the station. It seems to me providential that only a few days ago a civilized Congo, who has been in the Republic some twenty years, applied to us for work, and we hired him by the month—so that we have an interpreter in advance. Indeed, since we made the selection of a site for our school and settlement, there have occurred several incidents which have favored our designs, and are evidently the doings of God. We therefore feel much encouraged, although beset by many hindrances. Our health is pretty good, although we have each recently had a slight attack of fever. Certainly not the little skill that I have in the use of remedies for disease has thus secured our health. God has watched over us, and we offer him our grateful acknowledgments and hearty praise.

We continued our labors of building, clearing, planting, and making roads, and if the present favorable weather continues, shall enlarge our force next week. We have planted out one hundred and twenty coffee trees, and upwards of one hundred fruit trees of various kinds, besides our shrubs, vegetables, and even flowers. Why should we not have flowers? We have one cow, but hope soon to increase our stock of this kind.—These particulars will weary some of your readers, but they will interest others, as it will enable them to see that our Muhlenberg grows. I never expected to *make* a mission—I only hoped to be one of the means by which one would be developed or grown. Things *made* are dead—those that grow have life, and the wise man says that "a live dog is better than a dead lion."

But I must close, as the prize "Storm King," with its former crew and officers confined on board, will in a few hours sail for Norfolk, Virginia, under the command of Lieut. Hughes, who most politely promised just now to take any letters that I might wish to transmit to the United States. These officers have while here acted so kindly and politely as to richly merit the praise which they received from all who have met them.

For the last few days we have had fine weather, being the season usually termed here the "middle dries," during which time the greater part of the rice harvest is gathered home, with loud and cheerful songs. Everywhere now through the country are the natives busy cutting off, head by head, the precious grain, and after binding it in small bundles, carrying it to the "Kitchen" or rice house. The present crop is unusually large, and the price will be low. We now buy it at one dollar per bushel in goods.

I will only add that if we take the re-captured natives mentioned, we will at once be required to expend considerable sums in building and procuring helps, food, and clothing, and I earnestly but respectfully entreat the church at home not to forget us. True we yet have means, as the funds collected before we sailed have been most carefully husbanded, and we have lived, and built, and hired as sparingly as we could—but to provide comfortable and durable homes and proper instruction, food and clothing for the number of helpless and destitute children which we expect soon to have will require an amount very soon beyond that now on hand. Certainly now that the cloud which so long enveloped this movement has somewhat dispersed, and the favor of our heavenly Father is manifested, the church will take courage and come to its aid. M. OFFICER.

Monrovia, Liberia, August 28, 1860.

MINUTES OF GENERAL SYNOD,

LANCASTER, Pa., 1862.

Lancaster Pa. July. 1862

The minutes of the last session were read and approved.

Rev. Dr. Harrison presented the Report of the Committee on the African Mission. The report was received and, after amendment, adopted as follows:

Report on the African Mission.

At the meeting of the General Synod, held at Pittsburg, in 1859, it was

Resolved, That the Committee on the African Mission be continued, and that they be directed to proceed with the work begun, but that no decided action as to the location and commencement of the Mission be taken without the co-operation of the Executive Committee of our Foreign Missionary Society.

Immediately before leaving Pittsburg, the joint Committee adopted the following resolutions, viz.:

Resolved, That we locate a Mission, if practicable, next Fall (1859) according to the plan adopted, at Reading, for the African Mission.

Resolved, That the Rev. M. Officer, as Superintendent, spend the interim in visiting the Church and doing the preparatory work as heretofore.

Resolved, That in sending Bro. Officer to Africa next Fall, to locate a Mission, our purpose is to continue him in Africa no longer than is necessary to the healthy superintendence of said Mission, believing that a portion of his time may be spent here at home for the better promotion of the interests of the Mission.

After the General Synod had adjourned Bro. Officer continued to visit the Churches as before in behalf of the Mission. In September, of the same year, (1859,) Bro. H. Heigerd was appointed a missionary to labor in Africa under the supervision of Bro. Officer. No opportunity offering, these brethren did not leave for Africa, until Feb. 23, 1860. The following instructions, in the meantime were given to the Superintendent:

1. That as heretofore determined, the Mission shall be located in the Territory of Liberia, or in the Sherboo Country.

2. That the Superintendent erect the necessary buildings and commence the Mission School as soon as practicable after the location shall have been selected.

3. That the Superintendent employ such assistants as, may be necessary, from among the natives and settlers of the country.

4. That Bro. Heigerd have, at present, no fixed salary, but that all his expenses of Board, Clothing and Medical attendance be paid, till the amount of his salary can be determined.

5. That the Superintendent have a salary of $600 per annum, and that six months' pay be advanced him, before sailing for Africa.

6. That an outfit of one hundred dollars be allowed to Bros. Officer

and Heigerd, conjointly, for the purchase of household goods and furniture, which goods and furniture, however, are to be the property of the Mission.

7. That the Superintendent be authorized to expend a sum, not exceeding one hundred dollars, in the purchasing of tools and implements for the Mission.

On the 23d of February, 1860, Bros. Officer and Heigerd set sail from Baltimore and reached the Liberian Coast, the 5th day of April following. The rainy season being about to set in, with reliable information in regard to several contemplated points and after some exploration, a location was selected, about 30 miles inland from Monrovia, on the St. Paul's River. Application was at once made to the President of Liberia for one hundred acres of land for a Mission farm, on which also to erect the necessary Mission buildings. Two hundred acres more were asked as a Reservation, that we might have the privilege of selecting such settlers for this, as might sympathize with our Church, and thus improve the interests of the Mission. This Reservation was asked for seven years. Both applications were granted and your Committee have a copy of the deed for the one hundred acres for the Mission farm and premises. Upon application five acres more were donated, to be added to the Mission farm. The location of the Mission grounds is high and undulating, and is on the St. Paul's River, with a front of half a mile. The site of the Mission building has an elevation of ninety feet above the St. Paul's River. A small stream, which the natives say is never-failing, runs through both the Reservation and the Mission farm. In the vicinity of the Mission there is quite a number of villages, some of which have been very anxious to have our missionaries labor among them. In an exploration farther into the interior, Bro. Officer found a most inviting field, where the Chief and many of his people spoke the English language.

The St. Paul's, in front of the Mission has a fall of some three feet, and about a quarter of a mile above, a still greater fall, with a considerable descent between the two points, so that it is supposed that a fall of twelve feet could be secured for water power, which might become exceedingly valuable to the Mission. A road has been cut through from the Mission two miles, to Millsburg, the head of navigation on the St. Paul's River. Considerable attention has already been given to the cultivation of the farm. Its principal products are Rice, Cassada, Potatoes and Eddoes. Several hundred Coffee trees have already been planted. The labor, necessary to the cultivation of these, is peculiarly adapted to children and youth, such as are in the Manual Labor School, as coffee can be raised with comparatively little cost for implements and machinery; besides it can be transported with little expense and loss and always meet with a ready market. Its cultivation will be the principal object of the manual labor department of the Mission, after supplying

the Mission with vegetables. The buildings of the Mission are 1st, a temporary frame 22 by 26 feet, one story and a half high. This was first used by the missionaries, but will hereafter be occupied by the assistants, employed at the Mission and a part of the Mission children. 2nd, A substantial frame 15 by 28 feet, designed for a Chapel and School house, and now used for both daily and Sabbath exercises. Though small, it is well adapted to the purposes of the Mission. 3rd, A house designed especially as a residence for the missionaries, which is a well built frame 25 by 26 feet, one story and a half high with a piazza in front.

In the school of the Mission we have 38 children, 19 males and 19 females—all of these are Congo children. They are clothed and fed by the Mission and are required to work a certain portion of each day. The daily exercises are as follows: Morning prayers from 6 to 6½ o'clock—work from 6½ to 9—breakfast from 9 to 10—school from 10 to 1—recreation from 1 to 2—work from 2 to 5—supper from 5 to 6—evening prayers from 6 to 6½ o'clock. At the morning and evening exercises the whole School repeats the ten Commandments, the Lord's prayer, the Apostle's creed and a hymn. The instructions in the school are in English. A number of the children already read and have made very encouraging progress, and seem readily to adopt habits of civilization.

Taken from Captured Slavers by U. S. Cruisers

All these children were selected from a captured slaver in the latter part of August, 1860. The Committee, to whom was entrusted the distribution of those on board the slaver, proposed to our missionaries the privilege of selecting as many as they could take charge of. They selected 40, 20 males and 20 females, of whom two have since died. Two other children connected with the Mission have died. These were the children of Mrs. Arnet, who is an Assistant at the Mission. The Governor of Liberia has contributed for their support $659 50.

A small church was organized, Feb. 17, 1861, composed of Mr. and Mrs. Heigerd, Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs, Liberians, formerly from South Carolina, Mrs. Arnet and her daughter, Liberians, formerly from Pennsylvania; another of Mrs. Arnet's daughters had professed faith in Christ, and had made application for membership, but died previous to the organization. Bros. Officer and Heigerd were both most industriously engaged in the work of the Mission until about one year ago, when Bro. Officer left the mission in the more immediate care of Bro. Heigerd, with special instructions such as your Committee most heartily approve.

About the last of August, 1860, Miss Kilpatrick was employed to take the more especial charge of the Congo girls who had been taken from the captured slaver. Miss Kilpatrick has since become the wife of Bro. Heigerd.

The whole cost of the Mission to the present date has been $4,044.99.

This includes everything from the sailing of our missionaries until the present time, and embraces the entire expenses of outfit, building material, tools, books, fare, freight, land surveying, making road, hire of workmen, support of 40 children and salaries of missionaries from the time of embarking, Feb. 23, 1860 to the present, May 1st, 1862. Amount yet on hand April 1st, 1862, $3,023-96. Your Committee express with much pleasure their conviction that the interests of this Mission have been conducted by our missionaries with intelligence, industry, economy and success. It is our desire that this good work, so well begun, shall ever receive the fostering care of the Church.

In concluding this report we offer the following recommendations:

1st. That our worthy brother M. Officer be continued the Superintendant of the Mission.

2nd. We recommend to the continued favor of the Church Bro. Heigerd and his wife, both of whom have shown themselves interested, competent and efficient in their labors at the Mission, and we recommend that their salary consequently be $500.

3rd. We recommend that the appointment of Bro. B. F. Steiner, a student of Wittenberg College as a missionary to our African Mission and his departure for the Mission the coming Fall, and the amount of his salary be referred for decision to the Executive Committee.

4th. We also recommend that the Committee have power between this and the next meeting of the General Synod to send out one other suitable brother to strengthen the Mission, if such a brother can be secured.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. HARRISON,
J. G. MORRIS,
S. SPRECHER,
S. W. HARKEY.

Resolved, That the General Synod has heard with extreme gratification the highly encouraging Report of the Committee on the African Mission and recognizes, in this unparallelled success, an unmistakable indication of the sanction of Divine Providence upon the undertaking.

Resolved, That we earnestly invite the attention of our people to this Mission, in the present peculiar juncture of our National affairs, as we believe that our Heavenly Father is hereby indicating, in part, the proper solution of the great question of the age, viz., the providing of a suitable home for a disenthralled race.

Resolved, That the Committee on the African Mission now, at their own request, be discharged and that the interests of said Mission be transferred to the Executive Committee of our Foreign Missionary Society.

Resolved, That the moneys on hand, belonging to the African Mission, and all moneys, hereafter designated for that object, be appropriated to said Mission.

For the Lutheran Observer.

AFRICAN MISSION.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—While passing through some of our neighboring "rice farms" this morning, I saw many of the natives busily engaged in cutting and bearing home their well laden sheaves, and I thought that a brief description of the manner in which this valuable product is grown and harvested here, might be interesting to the readers of the Observer.

None but the upland rice or that which grows on land not inundated during the rains, is raised in this part of the country, and this is not sown till repeated showers in the beginning of the wet season have moistened the earth. The farmers then commence sowing on their lowest and flattest land first, and continue to sow at intervals for two months or more, in order to have some fields early and others late, and thus afford time for harvesting.

In a little time after the seed is sown and "scratched in" with a small hoe, the little shoots make their appearance, and as many stalks spring from a single grain, if the field is well sown it will in a few weeks be carpeted with beautiful green. At the expiration of about three months from the time of sowing, the stalk attains its maturity, and turning a bright yellow color it becomes ready for harvesting. Just now many of the hills around us are "white unto the harvest," and owing to the unusually large harvest "the laborers are comparatively few."

The rice stalks attains about the same height and thickness as that of oats in the middle and western states, and the head or ear having many beards and a thick hull or chaff closely folded about the grain, very much resembles the oat head.

Before the crop ripens, there is constructed on each large field a "kitchen," being a thatched shed sometimes partially inclosed, for the purpose of drying and storing the grain, and this structure also becomes the

mporary residence of those who watch the birds off the ripening crop, and then of the reapers who gather it in.

As soon as the yellow spots begin to appear in the fields, the people, male and female, old and young, go forth to the harvest and continue cutting the ripest first till all is gathered. The method of harvesting is very tedious. It consists in clipping off with a small iron, or wooden knife, each stalk separately close to the head, binding them in bundles of about a handful each, and then carrying them in large baskets to the "kitchen," where they are dried and stored away. Owing to this slow mode of gathering the crop, a large number of persons are required to harvest a few acres. Each owner of a field, therefore, employs reapers and pays them a certain portion of the grain which they cut. The rule here is to give one sheaf out of six to the reaper. There being now a large amount of ripe grain standing uncut in the fields, we have for several days past allowed our twenty mission boys to go out and assist a neighboring native "headman" to gather his crop, and they return each evening with the bundles which they have received for their labor. This headman does not like the wicked men of whom Job complains, (Job, xxiv: 10.) "Take away the sheaf of the hungry," but allows them to "bring their sheaves with them."—(Psalm, cvi: 6.)

Since labor is so much in demand during the rice harvest, and the pay is also certain, it would be easy even for those who have no fields of their own to lay up a considerable quantity of their favorite food. But most of this class are very negligent, and choose rather to loiter about and thus allow the harvest to pass and the summer to end without making any provision for the future time of need. They thus in temporal matters become fit types of men generally in things spiritual. One cause of this improvidence and idleness is a species of gambling to which many of the native men are addicted, and to which, in this season especially, they give themselves up with all the eagerness and persistency of confirmed gamblers in other countries. Moreover, when spirituous liquors can be obtained, these games are attended with drunkenness and revelry.

And now, as the natural harvest in the country around us is drawing to a close, the harvest spiritual appears to extend and widen before us, and to ripen more and more. The forty children that we received from among the re-captives brought in by American cruisers about two month past, are doing well, and some of the natives around us are desirous of putting their children under the care of the mission. Besides this, if we had a proper person to employ as teacher, and the means to support him, we could establish a day school in one of the native villages about one mile from the station, while the whole country inland from us is open for preaching, and is left entirely destitute. While, therefore, I could not urge it as a duty for American christians to found and sustain missions among the colonists here, many of whom are able to sustain their own churches, I can with confidence commend the country occupied by the native population as a needy and promising field for missionary effort. It seems clear to my mind that if some of our young men who are well qualified to teach and preach were to enter this field, and here spend their lives, they would not regret it in this world nor in that to come. M. Officer.

P. S.—Owing to the late setting in of the rains this season, the rice sowing was unusually late, as is also the harvest. The rains still continue, and the waters are higher than they were at the time when the rains are usually heaviest. With the exception of occasional slight attacks of fever, our health continues good. M. Officer.

Muhlenberg Mission, Liberia, Oct. 8, 1860.

"As to the *English Patents* I can give y[illegible] you may require, being well acquainted with Mr. Woodcroft, the Superintendent, and receiving weekly the specifications for the New York State Library, the Astor Library, and the U. S Patent Office. There are several sets in the United States, but there is no one in the West. The work is now so bulky and so costly, that it is not possible that the Commissioners of Patents could present another set to the United States, unless the Library receiving it should be somewhere in the West, and the books be deposited for *public use*. They would also insist that the work should be well arranged, and substantially bound. The cost of paper and print of each set is about ten thousand dollars ($10,000), and the three sets that have been bound have cost for binding about seven thousand dollars ($7,000). You see a present of this kind after the Oriental fashion becomes very expensive. I do not think the vast bulk of printed matter, with plates, on soft paper, would be of any use to you unbound.

For the Lutheran Observer.

AFRICAN MISSION.

Mr. Editor:—A few days since I made a visit to Carysburg, the interior settlement formed some four years ago, under the supervision of Rev. John Seys, agent of the American Colonization Society, and as much has been written in regard to the distance of that settlement from the sea—the peculiar advantages of the country around it, and the improvements connected with it, I will give a somewhat detailed account of the trip.

Starting from Muhlenberg at about 8 o'clock in the morning, I crossed the St. Paul's river to the upper part of the Harrisburg settlement, and after a little delay set out on one of the native paths for what is called the Carysburg road, leading from White Plains to Carysburg. I walked south by east for one hour, passing three small native towns and crossing a heavy creek, running rapidly over a rocky bottom at the place of crossing. The soil of that region, like that of the upland generally, is somewhat rocky in places, but rich and well adapted to tillage.

After striking the Carysburg road, my course was generally south-east, but at times south of that point. One hour and a half's travel on this road brought me to another strong, rapid stream of clear water, running over gravel and granite rock in a western direction. I crossed this stream on a foot-log, there being as yet no bridge, but only a beginning made at the construction of some stone piers intended to support a bridge. The land here is very good, and a Mr. Reuben Lewis, lately immigrated from the neighborhood of the Natural Bridge, in Virginia, has here selected his land, and erected a comfortable hewed log house. Although he had that day buried his only son, he seemed hopeful and well satisfied with the country.

Walking half an hour more, I reached a new settlement of seven houses; the settlers are from Richmond, Virginia—came out on the M. C. Stevens, about six months ago, and taking up their temporary abode at the receptacle of Carysburg, selected their lands and built their houses before the six months during which the Colonization Society provided for them, had expired. All of these people with whom I talked appeared to be cheerful and contented, and determined to improve their lands. Among the dwellings at this place is one very neat little frame cottage.

The next half hour's walk brought me to a neat thrifty native town of about sixty houses, under the chieftanship of a well disposed native, by the name of Zodaque. Passing on from this place I soon crossed a strong bold stream of pure water, and then soon after another of like character, both of which run in a westerly direction, and perhaps unite a little distance below and flow into the St. Paul's or Mesurado river. In less than half an hour from Zodaque's, continuing along the same road, still running almost south-east, I came to a small creek bridged, but there were no embankments made at the ends so as to admit of crossing with even an ox cart, and on the south side of this stream I came to a recent settlement of three families from Newberry District, South Carolina.—They too have been in this country only about six months, and now have houses of their own, and are clearing their land. On asking one of the settlers how they liked the country, I received a prompt reply that they liked it "first rate." From this settlement to Carysburg I found it to be a little more than a half an hour's walk, crossing some two or three streams, bridged but not embanked, so as to admit of crossing with a team. However, soon after leaving this last settlement, I saw the tracks of oxen and cart, showing that these means and attendants of civilization are actually in use on a short portion of this road, about which so much has been said, and on which carts and wagons have been running—*in the newspapers of the United States* for more than a year. If a road could be *written* out, what a commodious highway this would be! But alas! it must be *chopped* and *dug* out, and chopping and digging are *work*.

The hill on which the receptacle at Carysburg stands is about 250 feet high, being a gradual slope on the north-west side, but steep and rugged on the opposite side. The top of the hill is only a few rods wide, and is taken up with the receptacle and the other buildings belonging to it. Most of the town is in the valley at the foot of the hill, where the soil is much better, and water more convenient. The number of people in the entire settlement, I was informed, is above three hundred. There are two churches—Methodist and Baptist, and there is a considerable number of the more recent settlers who are members of the Presbyterian church. Most of the people enjoy good health, and they appear to be more industrious and energetic than the generality of the citizens of the Republic, as far I have seen.

By a glance at the several stages of my trip, the reader will see that the time occupied in walking from the St. Paul's river, opposite this place, to Carysburg was about four hours, and reckoning the speed at three miles per hour, (and I do not think it was greater,) the distance of the settlement from the river is about twelve miles. It will also be seen that my course from Muhlenberg to Carysburg was on the whole somewhat south of south-east, and since the sea coast of this region—from Monrovia southward—runs a little east of south-east, it is clear that our place is a greater distance from the sea than is Carysburg.

The view from the top of the hill at Carysburg is charming, as the distant highlands can be seen in all direction, except towards

the ocean. The country around the place is productive, well watered and well timbered, and iron ore of apparently a rich quality, seems to abound in the hill on which the settlement began.

Returning from Carysburg, I came by way of Mount Coffee, a high hill about 8 miles north of Carysburg, near which Rev. A. Miller, who was educated at Ashman Institute, Pa., and is now a missionary of the Presbyterian Board, has lately erected a mission house, and is about to settle to labor among the natives. His situation is well chosen for the object aimed at, being in the midst of a considerable native population, and in a beautiful, productive and healthful part of the country. Mount Coffee can be seen from the upper part of our mission grounds. Yours, &c., M. OFFICER.

Liberia, Africa, Jan. 3, 1861.

(For the Lutheran and Missionary.)

MISSIONS.

Muhlenberg Mission, Africa.

The last communication from brother Heigerd was written at Muhlenberg, on the 6th of September, and was brought by a merchant vessel belonging to one of the firms at Monrovia, Liberia. The intelligence which it contains in regard to the mission, is very encouraging. All the members of the mission, except Mrs. Aruet, one of the assistants, were in good health; and as they had transported to the mission the supplies sent out in the early part of the summer, they were comfortable and happy.

Brother Heigerd says: "We are now living in the new house, though it is not quite finished up stairs. It seems like home to be living in a comfortable, white house, with green window shutters and brown doors, and the yard of which is ornamented with three fine cocoa-nut trees and a beautiful palm, besides a multitude of other beauties to feast the eye; and to have at hand a valuable plantain orchard, from which we can gather something daily to feast the appetite. A few days ago I took from one of our plantain trees a large branch containing eighty-five large plantains. It was as much as I could carry into the store-room."

Brother Heigerd says that there is great excitement in the republic, caused by rumors of war among the native tribes of the interior, and by a report that a Spanish war vessel was about to attack Monrovia, in retaliation for the destruction of a slaver, at Cape Mount, by the Liberian coast-guard "Lark." He says they heard heavy firing one evening for about one hour, in the direction of Monrovia; and from a letter written a few days later at Monrovia, and brought by the "San Jacinto," I learn that there had been an engagement in the harbor at Monrovia between a Spanish vessel and the "Lark," supported by guns on shore, and that the Spaniard drew off, after sustaining some injury.

A few weeks since, I shipped from New York additional supplies for the mission, which, if they reach their destination, will be sufficient for the next three months. These supplies, too, have all been paid, and we have a little money left of what was contributed during the fall for that purpose. Perhaps, in view of the numerous demands on the benevolent, and the pressing wants of many good objects now before the Church, it is my duty to say that we will not need anything more for our Muhlenberg mission before spring,—and perhaps we can even make out our spring supplies without further aid. I say this because we do not *now* need the money, and because I feel assured, from the interest shown towards the mission, that *when we do need* more funds, we can procure them.

M. OFFICER.

Springfield, O., Dec. 27, 1861.

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(For the Lutheran and Missionary.)

AFRICAN MISSION.

Within the last few days letters have been received from Muhlenberg Mission by a Boston trading vessel, and although some of them are of earlier date than those from which extracts have already been published, yet they contain some items of interest to the friends of missions.

Under date of July 31st, 1862, Brother Heigerd says: "The children are still progressing in learning and civilized habits. I have a class of eight, who recite to me every evening. It is voluntary with them, they having first asked me to hear them. I was very glad of the offer, and accepted it at once; but thought they would soon tire of it. But they have now been reciting to me about six months, and have not missed a night. They all read very well. Rebecca Smith is my best reader and speller. She can spell nearly every word in the spelling book. She sometimes gets a page and a-half for a lesson. Sprecher is my best arithmetician. He can work almost all the questions mentally, in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, when the numbers are not too large."

After writing the letter containing the above, Brother Heigerd came down to Monrovia and wrote the following the evening of the same day. "I received three letters from you to-day, dated May 17th, May 20th, and May 30th; and am much encouraged by the information you gave me. . . . . I am very much obliged to the General Synod for the liberal salary they allow us. It is more than we deserve, and more than I expected. . . . The books and provisions have all come to hand except the crackers. Mrs. Heigerd has given up the notion of going home. It is now midnight, and I must close my letter and try to sleep some."

On the 3d of Nov., 1862, Brother Heigerd writes that he had again received supplies, papers, and letters sent from New York. And although he was greatly disappointed in not meeting Brother Steiner at Monrovia, who was expected to join him at the mission last fall, yet he was resigned and hopeful. He says: "All of us at the mission are sadly disappointed, for we so much needed a good man here to help us in this good

Lutheran Observer of April 12th 1861

Ob. 4.12.61

AFRICAN MISSION.

RETURN OF REV. M. OFFICER.

On Friday afternoon we were agreeably surprised by an unexpected vistit from br. Officer, the founder of the African Mission. About one year ago Messrs. Officer and Heigerd sailed from this port for Liberia, to put into execution the long cherished plan of establishing a mission school among the natives of Africa When we saw the small craft in which they embarked, we feared that their voyage might neither be safe nor agreeable, but He who rules the winds and commands the waves gave them a prosperous trip. Arrived at their destination, they immediately selected a place on St. Paul's river, about 30 miles inland from Liberia. They applied to President Benson for a grant of one hundred acres of land, which they obtained, besides the right of purchasing two hundred acres adjoining the mission farm. They erected a suitable building, cleared land and planted sweet potatoes and other vegetables, and three months afterwards had an abundant crop. As soon as the house was completed, they organized a school, which now numbers 39 boys and girls. These children are mostly of the Congo tribe, and br. Officer says they improve as rapidly as could be expected, and adopt the habits of civilized life much more readily than the natives near the mission—— Part of their time is devoted to study and part to the clearing and improvement of the farm. They have already planted several hundred coffee trees, which will prove valuable to the mission, as the Liberia coffee is decidedly the most superior article known, and readily sells at 25 cents per lb. in this country. We had some of this coffee sent to us a few years ago by a colored man who emigrated from Virginia, and we never tasted anything equal to it.

When we consider the result achieved in the short space of a year, we are perfectly safe in the assertion, that the history of Foreign Missionary operations does not furnish a parallel of such marvelous success, obtained by such a small expenditure of means and energy. Br. Heigerd fortunately found a young lady from England engaged in the

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mission work at Liberia, to whom he was married a short time ago, and who is an efficient help-meet to him in his arduous work. Br. Officer also organized a congregation before he left Africa, consisting of seven members. A colored Lutheran family from Charleston, S. C., are members of this church. Br. Heigerd is said to be admirably calculated for his responsible and arduous position, and intends to spend his life in Africa. Br. Officer does not expect to return. He believes that the mission can be sustained at a small expense, and that the churches who have already manifested a lively interest in this work, will sustain it without the help of an agent. Let us thank God for the favor he has shown to our brethren, and for the success he has already vouchsafed to this mission.

For the Missionary.

Muhlenberg Mission.

Since my return to this country, I have received two letters from Br. Heigerd, who now has charge of our African Mission, on St. Paul's River, Liberia. The last of these letters was written on the 29th of April, and states that the health of Mr. and Mrs. Heigerd was not so good as it was at the time of my leaving, but that in other respects the mission was prosperous. The mission house was being completed by Mr. Jacobs, a colored man, member of our church, and a settler at the Station; and the clearing and planting by the mission boys, immediately under the supervision of Br. Heigerd, were nearly completed for this season. They are raising all their own vegetables, and also a field of rice, and have by this time planted about four hundred coffee trees, which will begin to bear in about three years, and will aid in defraying the expenses of the mission. Br. Heigerd says "the children are doing remarkably well; I never saw children do better. They work well, obey well and learn fast." And in a postscript he adds: "Very often before the children retire, they sing some hymn and then repeat the Lord's Prayer." This, of course, is after the regular evening devotions, and voluntary on the part of the children. It will be remembered that when we took these children to Muhlenberg, less than one year ago, they were not only raw heathen, but were unable to speak one word of the English language.

Br. Heigerd requests that Miss. Annie Selkirk, the young colored woman, whom I brought from Georgia to be educated for the mission, be sent out soon to aid them in their work; and as she could now be very useful there and desires to go, we will perhaps send her out this fall if there is a suitable opportunity, and our means will admit of it. Indeed, we need also another man there, and could now perhaps procure the services of one of our pious, talented and educated young ministers, but hesitate on account of the depressed state of finances in our country. For while we have means to support our present operations for a few months, we hardly know whether sufficient additional funds could be procured to increase our force and extend our operations.

I have just shipped from New York, by the bark "Ocean Eagle," a small amount of supplies, sufficient with what money is still in hand in Africa, to last till late in the fall. And now, if our ministers and people will remember our mission, and will contribute somewhat liberally to its funds, we may be able in the fall to purchase the further supplies, and perhaps to send out additional laborers to that comparatively destitute field.

M. Officer.

Springfield, O., July 12, 1861.

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eckenridge, delivered in the Senate, July
Washington, 1861. 8vo.
of Hon W. D. Kelley, January 31, 1862.

Hon. Andrew Johnson, in the Senate,
862. 8vo.
on. F. A. Pike, in the House of Repre-

ge Hall, Toledo, Nov. 26, 1861. 8vo.
nances. Washington, 1862 8vo.
. H. G. Blake, April 11, 1862. 8vo.
, 1862. 8vo.
y 9, 1862. Washington, 1862. 8vo.

arks of Hon. Owen Lovejoy, April 24,

he House of Representatives, April 23,

(For the Lutheran and Missionary.)

MISSIONS.

MUHLENBERG MISSION.

Letters from our Mission, on the St. Paul's River, Liberia, written on the 19th of October and the 4th of November last, and brought by a Boston merchant vessel, represent the Mission in a prosperous state. The missionaries were in good health, and the children of the school were still improving in all respects.

They had not yet received the last supplies sent out from New York, but they had a plentiful supply of native productions, and Mr. Heigerd was continuing to plant so as to make provision for the future.

The country around the Mission, however, was in great confusion, in consequence of wars among the native tribes, and there began to be a scarcity of food, as the natives had neglected planting and sowing. If these disturbances have been general among the inland tribes, the whole population, both native and settler, will experience distressing want in a few months.

These wars have in part, at least, been caused by the withdrawal of the American fleet, and the consequent increased attempts to revive the slave trade on that part of the coast, the Spanish slavers having again appeared at Cape Mount.

Brother Heigerd states, that on the breaking out of hostilities between the tribes in the vicinity of the Mission, John Bachman, one of the Mission boys taken from the Golah tribe near by, ran away to his own people: that is, he *seceded*. Is there, after all, something in a name? At any rate, Bachman has gone, though he did not go till the war began, and he then no longer considered himself safe at the Mission, where the enemies of his people are almost daily visiting. All the rest of our boys, and girls, too, are Congoes, and will, in these troublous times, feel safer at the Mission than anywhere else, and will not be inclined to run away.

M. OFFICER.

Springfield, O., Feb. 28th, 1862.

Fourteenth Annual Report of the I
Legislature, February, 1861. Ph
Annual Report of the Western Peni
Ninth Annual Report of the Peniten
Eighth Annual Report of William
1862. 8vo.
Abstract of Returns of the Keepers
Correction. Boston, 1842. 8vo.
Report of the Joint Committee on
Philadelphia, 1861. 8vo.
House of Refuge, its design, &c. 8
Third Quarterly Report of the Chief
of Philadelphia. Phila. 8vo.

Lutheran June 19 '62

OUR AFRICAN MISSION.

In the "Colonization Herald" of June, we find the following kindly and very encouraging notice of the Mission at Muhlenberg, from the pen of the Right Rev. Bishop Payne, of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Liberia. We hope this testimony to the success of the Mission will not be without its effects in awakening a new interest in behalf of this most important work.

We reached this place, Monrovia, early Saturday morning, 22d ult. Next day I preached in St. Paul's Church, this building being still occupied by Trinity congregation, while their own church is being fitted up. In the same place, on Wednesday afternoon, I confirmed *three* persons. On the following day I proceeded up the St. Paul's river, visiting Rev. Mr. Russell and some other friends on the way. Thursday evening I spent at Harrisburgh, a station of the Presbyterian Board, where there are some dozen Congoes, with a few Liberian children under instruction. It was pleasant to hear the former, so lately heathen, at the first exercise at evening prayer, repeat the Creed. Next morning, I passed over the Rapids of the St. Paul's to Muhlenberg, the new station of the Lutherans. But new as it is—only about two years old—I found the zealous missionary, Rev. Mr. Heigart, with the aid of some *forty* Congoes, boys and girls, placed under his care, had cleared about twenty acres of land, and put most of it under cultivation. The children work five hours, and go to school three, an arrangement which I think worthy of imitation, where we have to deal with fresh recruits from heathenism.

Mr. Heigart has been on the Mission premises only about two years, *and certainly accomplished far more than I ever knew to be done at an African station within this time.* The Congoes have been under instruction little more than a year, and most of them can speak and be spoken to in English; many can read and write a little.

And here it is proper to call attention to this new element, which has suddenly *transformed Liberia into a proper mission field.* No less than four thousand of these people, called Congoes, but really of various tribes, have been introduced into the Republic within the past two years. They are distributed in parties numbering from two or three to twenty-five, amongst the colonists. Adults are apprenticed for three years; minors, until they become of age. Employed in daily labor, their only opportunities for receiving religious or other instruction, (with some few exceptions,) must be Sunday School or such evening catechetical instruction as a wise benevolence shall devise.

Lutheran & Missionary 9
June 19th 1862

(For the Lutheran and Missionary.)

MUHLENBERG MISSION.

No letters have been received very recently from this Mission, the last being dated June 7th, 1862. At that date, after specifying a few articles that he wished sent to him, Bro. Heigerd says:—"I have been busily engaged in planting and sowing. I think there are eight or ten acres of casada planted, and I found at least eight acres of rice, but the rice crop will not be good this season, owing to the drought. The natives have put out large farms this year, and it may be I can buy some of them: if not, we will try and get along without. I am having a large piece planted in potatoes (sweet) and will also plant more cocoes. My hedge (of the lime tree) is doing well, but I have not enough of it yet, but will plant more as soon as I can get seed and can spare the time. Our guava trees are full of fruit, and some of the coffee trees are bearing. We will soon have an abundance of various kinds of fruit. As the river was very low this season, I examined the place at which we had contemplated preparing a fishery, but find that the rocks cannot be cleared so as to admit of dragging a seine. There may be other places, but you know the river, perhaps, better than I do, and can therefore judge whether or not it would be better to send out a seine. The blue grass seed did not grow, the California squash grows very well, in vine, but does not bring to perfection; the squashes all fall off when they have attained about the size of apples. The children work well, and obey me promptly whatever I command them; they also learn fast. I have had frequent chills of late, but always at at night; otherwise my health is good."

These extracts show that Bro. Heigerd is making every effort in his power to improve the Mission property, and aid in defraying the expenses of the Mission, as well as to instruct and train the children of the School.

Hon. B. V. R. James, from whom I received a letter by the same ship, says:—"I was at your Mission four days ago. All well and doing well, everything in the most prosperous and flourishing condition—the greenest spot in this part of Africa."

About one month since I sent supplies to the Mission, by one of Messrs. Yates and Porterfield's ships of New York, and we expect to have another opportunity of sending again from Baltimore or New York during the early part of November next. Any of Bro. Heigerd's friends who may wish to write him by that opportunity can do so by simply directing the letters to me at this place, and I will forward them to him. M. OFFICER, *Supt.*

Lancaster, Pa., Oct. 17th, 1862.

Lutheran & Missionary
April 30th 1863

April 30 63

(For the Lutheran and Missionary.)

AFRICAN MISSION.

Somewhat lengthy and very satisfactory letters have been recently received from Muhlenburg Mission; some of them dating as late as the early part of February last. I here give some extracts from the letters of Bro. Heigerd. He says, "I have received the goods you sent me last by the *M. C. Stevens* in good order, also the box of fruit from Dr. Morris' family. The canned fruit is most delicious; the dried fruit too, is excellent. Many thanks to the donors."

"We have some ginger planted. I think we can grow it here as well as sweet potatoes. Agreeably to your wish, I will try to raise a lot of it next rains."

"I have a hedge planted from the house to the river, and the part next to the house is very good. The part running in a north-easterly direction, is doing very well. It is, however, young. I have nearly two sides of the pasture ground planted with lime hedge. On account of the war here and in America, I did not pay the same attention to the planting of trees, and things for exportation as I otherwise would have done."

"I have not been far into the country yet; not over twenty miles at any one time. I will not go till we get some help. It is not safe, I think, for me to leave the station for weeks without a man here in my place. Some native chiefs have sent we word to come and visit them, and one chief wishes me to take his son into our school; and others want me to send them teachers. I visited one town about fifteen miles from our station, where I think there is a great opening for a mission school. The chief said he would give a teacher some rice, palm oil, meat, and such other things as they had, and promised to be kind to any one who would come and live there; but he said he could not let his children go away from him, though he would like to have them educated. This town is situated on the 'Big Path' to the interior, where many natives pass who live, perhaps, two hundred miles in the interior."

"The boys are now cutting farm, but I think we will not cut as large a farm as we did last year, as we have more ground to cultivate now than we had then. While they are at work I generally see that their work is done as it should be. They attend school, when they are well, every day, and are advancing slowly. There has been no change in their working hours, and school recreation hours. The children work the same number of hours as they did when you left. We have the same morning and evening worship, and on the Sabbath the children are taught the catechism and Holy Writ, according to the best of my ability. I feel that we need another good man here, who can preach well and will lead a godly life. O that God would send us just such a one as he sees we are in need of! The children will need some other reading books soon. I am glad to inform you that those seeds you sent us last are good. I have now for the first time seen white and red clover grow in Africa; also blue grass."

"It appears that everybody is afraid to come to Africa, lest they should die in acclimating; but this need not be feared so much, for you have been here and returned to your family, and I have been here nearly three years, and have been exposed very much, yet I do not know that I would have had better health in America, if I had been as much exposed and have had the same cares. Mrs. Heiger has been here much longer than I have been and she has good health. And in our little family of forty-three persons we have not had a death* in two years. I will admit that whoever will come here will be sick, and sometimes very sick, but there are remedies. We have not called a doctor yet to see any of the family. I think there are few families as large as ours, that have not had a doctor in two years, or a death. I do not wish to be understood to boast, but simply to state facts, and thank God for his fatherly care over us."

"I am happy to tell you that we had the pleasure of Captain W. Folck's company (master of the *M. C. Stevens*) a few days ago. He is an old acquaintance of mine and a member of the Lutheran church. Bishop Payne and Rev. Hoffman, of Cape Palmas, and Mr. George Hall, Esq., of Baltimore, and Rev. Miles, of the Mendi Mission, also paid us a visit a few days ago. The boys will send you some hats of their own make, so that you may see what kind of hats they make, and how they spend the time allowed them for recreation."

"Remember us in your prayers. There is a great power in prayer, and we need what that power alone can secure."

Let no one suppose that because these extracts are mostly taken up with the more material interests of the Mission, its spiritual interests are neglected. The school is a *manual labor* institution and these statements are made in reply to inquiries concerning it as such.

M. OFFICER.

October, 1849. 8vo.
Deemes. May, 1849. 8vo.
8vo.
Congress of United States. 8vo.

(For the Lutheran and Missionary.)

MUHLENBERG MISSION.

A few more items of interest in addition to those already published, are contained in the letters recently received from our mission in Liberia.

Bro. Heigerd's semi-annual report on the financial state of the mission—its expenses and the improvements made—is equally as encouraging as any one heretofore presented. The children of the school do much toward their own support—indeed they come nearer supporting themselves than do the children of any manual labor, or orphan farm school in our own country—and are at the same time contributing something to the permanent improvement of the mission property.

After presenting the several items of expense, Bro. Heigerd says, "The things you left here for mission use are still here, and nearly all of them in good condition. . . . We have ten or twelve acres of very good cassada growing, and about one acre of tania, and three acres of sweet potatoes; we therefore have enough to last about one year. From this you can see that the crop we planted last year is not yet consumed. You know, however, that cassada and tania should not be dug until they are about a year old. There are about five hundred coffee trees growing, and some of them are bearing coffee. If you come out in the spring you will be able to take home with you to the states, some coffee which grew on our beloved Muhlenberg farm, and some of your own planting. We do not take any notice of the plantains and bananas here. There are perhaps a hundred fruit trees growing on the farm."

A Miss Hannah Moore, who was formerly connected with the Mendi Mission in the Sherbro country, and who recently visited our Muhlenberg Station, says, in a letter dated January 29th, 1863; "The wilderness has truly budded and blossomed as the rose. A large field of cassada in the richest green, is waving before my eyes, beside plenty of plantain, banana, coffee and cocoa nut trees, &c. (I have just stopped to eat a delicious guava and pine apple. The papau is not so good, to my taste.) Yesterday I walked out to the garden and saw the corn and beans and tomatoes on which we feast in your winter. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Heigerd seem indefatigable in their efforts to benefit their charge. The children have improved so much that Uncle Simon (one of the colored Presbyterian Missionaries,) and others, say that there is no other school in Liberia that has made the same progress. But the best of all is, that there has been increasing interest on the important subject of religion. Prayer meetings are attended every evening, and it would do your heart good to listen to the simple eloquence and pathos with which they (the larger and more advanced of the school) pray God for a new heart. Oh God, wash my heart clean! Cleanse the hearts of all the children, good fashion! Then they implore God's blessing on the dear missionaries, whom God has sent to be parents and teachers to them; not forgetting their far off benefactors in 'Big America,' as they call it. . . . . God's Spirit is not confined to the educated or refined circles, but can bless an humble Congo child as well as those in high life. We hope and trust some of them are truly regenerated. Effie is one of them, though we fear her life will be short, as she is quite out of health."

Other letters from acquaintances at Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, say, that Mr. Warner is likely to be the next president, and Mr. Priest, vice-president. That the college at Monrovia has been opened with six students; that the new Protestant Episcopal Church at Monrovia was to be consecrated on the following Sabbath; and that things generally were improving in Liberia. O.

s, January 15, 1862. 8vo.

3 Cox, December 17, 1861. 8vo.

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of the Children's Aid Society of New

se of Representatives, April 23d, 1862.

ıe Rev. B. W. Chidlaw, Chaplain to the
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AFRICAN MISSION.

By the "Bark Greyhound," recently arrived at New York from Monrovia, Liberia, we have letters from Mr. and Mrs. Heigerd, dated Muehlenberg Mission, June 8th, 1863.

In consequence of feeble health, Bro. Heigerd's letter is brief, and is mostly occupied with a report of the financial interests of the mission, which report is very satisfactory. In regard to his health, he says, "I have had a very severe attack, and strange as severe. I had no fever, but suffered general prostration, restlessness at night, and could not eat. I have not been out to see what the boys are doing for a week. I fear I will need a change of climate to renew my health."

It is not at all surprising that Bro. Heigerd's health begins to fail, for he has now been in Africa much longer than the average service of missionaries in that field without a return to a northern climate. It would, indeed, be cause for deep regret if the mission were just now to be deprived of his valuable services, even for a brief period; but the time required and the expenses involved in a visit from that country to the United States, are inconsiderable, compared with those of a return from most of the other mission fields in pagan lands. We confidently trust that before this time, Bro. Kistler, who went out on the M. C. Stevens, has reached Muehlenberg, and has already relieved Bro. Heigerd of a portion of his cares and labors. There is no reasonable doubt that Br. Heigerd's present prostration is, in a large measure, owing to the excessive labors that he has had to perform.

These letters bring the sad intelligence that two of the mission children, Martin James and Benjamin Kurtz, have recently died with that peculiar and distressing malady, called the "Sleepy Disease." Mrs. Heigerd says, "These were two of the most promising of our mission family. Before the sleepy disease came upon them, they both tried to learn their lessons, to do right and to love God; and although after the attack their disease made them so stupid that we could seldom get them to talk, from the disposition they had manifested, we have reason to believe that they are safe with Jesus."

If they are *safe with Jesus*, then we cannot grieve, though we hoped they would be spared to grow up to maturity, and would become co-laborers in the blessed work of enlightening the poor heathen of the surrounding country. And if our devoted missionaries are called to mourn, as we know they do, the early departure of these two members of the "Mission family," they at the same time are permitted to experience that peculiar joy which springs from the hope of meeting in the heavenly world, some whom they have been instrumental in enlightening and leading to the blessed Saviour, amid the gloom and the miseries of Paganism. And if any one should doubt that such a hope as this can yield a hallowed joy, let him, with a hearty desire for the salvation of men, go forth to the untaught heathen, and after, by the grace of God, winning some of them to Christ, and for awhile witnessing in their lives the fruits of a renewed state, and in their happy death the triumph of saving faith, bury their lifeless forms beneath heathen soil, and then let him tell the emotion that wells up in his soul at the thought of a future greeting, and we know he will speak of a joy more sacred and profound than any that this world alone can afford.

Mrs. Heigerd's health has very considerably improved since her previous letter, so that she is able again to resume her duties; and although during her illness she rejoiced to think "that her work was almost done;" yet being now restored, she again enters upon it with cheerfulness. "It is," says she, "a very little thing to give our poor lives wholly to God, who paid such a price to redeem us from wo. I do not see why so few are willing to enter an open door into the mission field. Is it not even more glorious to fall here than on the battle-field?"

"Mrs. Heigerd adds: "The rest of the children (except the two deceased) are well and doing well. Their kindness to us in our affliction makes them very dear to us, so that if we should have to leave them to recruit our health, it would indeed be leaving our home. . . . I hope we will soon get the right kind of help, one who having put his hand to the plow will not look back. . . . I was surprised, and very grateful to receive the Hymn Book and Album, the beautiful gift of kind Mrs. Mary G. I was surprised that she should thus think of one whom she never saw. . . . A great many of the leading wicked young men of Monrovia (capital of Liberia) have died very suddenly. Mr. Warner is elected President of Liberia." This is an excellent choice. Mr. Warner is most thoroughly acquainted with the history, political condition and wants of the Republic, and is a man of uncommon ability and integrity of character, and best of all, is an earnest Christian.

Will not the friends of missions earnestly pray that the favor of God may abide upon our afflicted missionaries, and upon the work of their hands?

M. Officer.

Lancaster, Pa., Aug. 4th, 1863.

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uel Baird. 8vo.
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For the Lutheran Observer.

Letter from our Mission in Africa.

The situation of our Mission is eligible All honor is due to the worthy superintendent for the judicious selection. The location is a healthful one. It is somewhat isolated, so that our children are away from any bad, outside influences. The land is just sufficiently undulating to make it desirable for cultivation. The soil is fertile, and the following articles may now be seen growing on the farm, coffee, chocolate, cocoanut, palm and bread nut trees; these may be classed under nuciferous or nut bearing trees. Of fruit trees we have the orange, lime, guava, avigato or butter fruit, papaw, granadilla, mango, peach, sour sop and cherry. Rice and Indian corn are the only grains we raise. As soon as we can procure seed we will try to grow spring wheat and barley, I think they can be successfully propagated. Of vegetables we raise sweet potatoes, cassada, eddoes, plantains, bananas, arrow root, pine apples, egg plants, sour sorrel, tobacco, sugar cane, ground peas, cabbage, peas, beans, lettuce, two kinds of okra, tomatoes, cucumbers, beets, onions, turnips and radishes, other articles of food which we do not yet grow are raised in Liberia, such as yams, millet, ben or bene seed, coonde plum, sweet sop, figs, cashew nut, wild grapes, tamarind, pomegranate, &c. We are cultivating many beautiful indigenous and American flowers.

I brought some grape cuttings with me; I think they can be raised here as well as at Sierra Leone, where I saw a very large fine vine. The Mission buildings are located on an elevation, about one-fourth of a mile from the St. Paul's river; just at the foot of the hill there is a fall in the river the music of which is continually greeting one's ears. We have on the farm, near the house, a never failing spring of water and a small creek called Susan creek. The rice of which we have about six acres is now ripe, and the children are cutting it. It is expected to yield ninety or hundred bushels.

Immediately on my arrival, I, according to appointment, took charge of the infant church as pastor. I have preached every Sabbath; have organized a separate class of catechumens consisting of the older children, whom I catechise regularly. These or most of them (D. V.) we expect to baptize and admit to church membership in a few months. A number of them, we have reason to believe, have experienced a change of heart, whilst the rest are anxious in regard to the salvation of their souls. A few Sabbaths ago, quite a number of the children came to my room after morning services, some with tears rolling down over their cheeks, asking me to pray with and instruct them. We had a happy little meeting. Yesterday, (Sabbath) we organized a Sabbath School. Heretofore, on account of the fewness of the laborers, the children were all instructed in one class, we now have three classes, and when Mrs. Kistler arrives and Mrs. Heigerd returns from America, we will have five classes. I am very much pleased and encouraged with the spiritual condition of the Mission. I think the good seed has germinated—the good leven is working. Pray for us, dear christian brethren in America. We need the prayers of the church, and we believe that God is now hearing and answering the prayers of those who feel interested in Muhlenberg Mission. The school is doing well. I have been teaching three hours each day since I arrived except last week and to-day, we had no school, as the children were cutting rice. We have school three hours per day all the year. Intellectually the children are not a whit inferior to American children. They are very fond of music, and are making rapid progress in the acquisition of the art. They were in a state of ecstacy, when they first heard the soft sweet tones of one of George A. Prince's five octavo Melodeons, with all the recent improvements. They now all join in and sing when it is played, some have excellent voices.

September 29th.—Since I wrote the above I have had my first attack of fever. On Sabbath, 20th inst., after morning services, I had a slight chill, accompanied with pains in the limbs, I immediately began to take medicine, and by careful nursing and proper medical treatment, I was again able to be up in four or five days. I had only the one chill, and at no time very much fever. I have again resumed my duties and am quite well. Br. Heigerd's health is improving. The ship M. C. Stevens has returned to Monrovia, and will sail for the States in a few days. Sister Heigerd will leave the Mission to go on board of ship on the 1st of October. I hope the Lord will give her a speedy and safe voyage, and will bless it to the restoration of her health. All the children are well. The rains are just going off, and the weather is beautiful.

J. KISTLER.

September 14, 1863.

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For the Lutheran Observer.

AFRICAN MISSION.

For the Lutheran Observer.

MUHLENBERG MISSION

From br. Heigerd's letter, published in the Observer of the 6th of November, the numerous readers of this paper have learned that he arrived safely at the Mission on the 11th of last August, and at once entered upon his noble work, greatly pleased and encouraged by the beauty of location and its surroundings, by the attainments that the children of the manual labor school had already made, and by the prosperous condition of the Mission in general.

In a letter dated August 30th, 1833, he says: "I am happy to inform you that the Spirit of God is evidently at work among our children. During the morning services yesterday, a boy about 18 years old, from Millsburg, burst into tears and wept aloud; many of the other children wept, and in the afternoon quite a number came to my room with tears in their eyes, desiring instruction. I talked to and prayed with them. I hope that God will carry on the good work, till all are converted. I have reason to believe that some of the children have experienced a change of heart."

These truly encouraging features of the work at Muhlenberg, furnish additional reasons to the church for its enlargement and hearty support. The faithful, patient instruction given to these heathen children by Mr. and Mrs. Heigerd are now bearing their legitimate fruit. Let these missionaries be sustained in their arduous, self-denying labors by the prayers and contributions of the church; and if their health fails, and they are compelled to return home; or if they even die at their post, let their place be supplied by others who, with the same zeal and devotion will give themselves to the divinely appointed work.

Mrs. Kistler expects to go out this fall to join her husband at the Mission, and will perhaps sail on the "M. C. Stevens," from Baltimore, some time in the approaching December. Any letters designed for our Missionaries should be sent by mail, or otherwise to the call of Dr. James Hall, Colonisation office, Baltimore, Md. From Baltimore they will be carried free of postage to Monrovia Liberia, which is the nearest Post Office to our Mission. Contributions to the Mission can be sent to the subscriber here, or to Martin Buehler, Esq., Philadelphia, Pa.

M. Officer.

Lancaster, Pa., Nov. 6, 1863.

(For the Lutheran and Missionary.)

MUHLENBERG MISSION.

The following brief letter is the first communication received from Bro. Kistler, since his arrival at the mission, although he embarked at Baltimore for Africa on the 25th of last May. The vessel made an unusually long voyage on account of going by way of the Cape Verde Islands and the Colony of Sierra Leone.

Muhlenberg Mission, }
August 27th, 1863. }

Dear Sir:—Thank the Lord, I have at last arrived at my field of labor. On the 8th of August our ship arrived at Monrovia; on the 10th I met Bro. Heigerd, and on the 11th we went up the river, arriving at the mission about 5 o'clock. I am sorry to say that I found Brother and Sister Heigerd in delicate health. I immediately took charge (temporarily) of the school, and have been teaching every day since. I have preached twice, and have organized a special class of catechumens, numbering eighteen of the older children. We teach all the children the Catechism in the afternoon. In a few weeks we will regularly organize a Sunday School. I am highly delighted with this interesting field of labor, and have enjoyed very good health thus far. I found the mission in a very fine condition. The beauty of the location and its surroundings, and the progress of the children in mental and moral culture far exceed my expectations. Bro. Heigerd and wife have been laboring most faithfully, and God has greatly blessed their labors. The children are making rapid progress in music, and all seem to be very fond of it. Mrs. Heigerd is afflicted with dropsy, and has been advised by Dr. M'Gill and others to take a trip to America. I think justice to herself demands of her to follow the advice. She will go to America in the M. C. Stevens. I hope the Lord may bless the means to her speedy recovery. She expects very soon to return to the mission, as it is thought the voyage to America and back will restore her health. The ship will leave about the last of September. Bro. Heigerd's health is improving since he has some rest. As soon as he recovers I will begin to study Golah, (the language of the natives inland from the mission.)

August 30th—Bro. Heigerd is going to the Cape (Monrovia) to-day. I am happy to inform you that the Spirit of God is evidently at work among our children. During the morning services yesterday, a boy about eighteen years old, from Millsburg, burst into tears and wept aloud; Many of the other children wept, and in the afternoon quite a number came to my room with tears in their eyes desiring instruction. I talked to and prayed with them. I hope that God will carry on the good work till all are converted. I have reason to believe that some of the children have experienced a change of heart.

These items of intelligence will be very gratifying to the church, and especially to those members who have contributed to the founding and support of our African Mission. The careful religious instruction of those heathen children for three years past has not been in vain, bu applied by the Holy Spirit to their hearts and minds, it is working that change which renders them subjects of the Kingdom of Heaven. And now that Bro. Kistler has joined Bro. Heigerd, the latter will not be overwhelmed with care and labor, and the operations of the mission will be somewhat enlarged. The committee had already given Mrs. Heigerd permission to visit the United States if her health did not materially improve. But it is hoped that she will not be long detained in this country.

The next vessel for Liberia will sail from Baltimore, perhaps in December next. Any persons wishing to send letters or other articles to our Missionaries at Muhlenberg, should direct them to Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa, care of Dr. James Hall, Colonization Office, Baltimore, Md. A three cent stamp on a letter is all that is required,—that is postage to Baltimore only—as the letters are carried free. A better way, perhaps, for letters, is, to direct them to "Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa, per Ship M. C. Stevens," and then enclose each letter, envelope and all in another envelope directed simply to Dr. James Hall, Colonization Office, Baltimore, Md. On the receipt of this at the Colonization Office, the first envelope will be removed and the letter then mailed for Africa. M. OFFICER.

Lancaster, Pa., November 6th, 1863.

(For the Lutheran and Missionary.)

AFRICAN MISSION.

Two brief letters from Rev. J. Kistler, the one written at Muhlenberg Mission, Jan. 2d, 1864, and the other at Monrovia, three days later, furnish the following information. Bro. Kistler had experienced another attack of fever, but was then "getting along remarkably well." Bro. Heigerd was again quite ill, and would likely, on that account, leave the mission for the United States, about the first of March. The Mission children and helpers were well.

On Saturday, the 26th of December, thirteen of the children that had been under religious instructions for three and a half years, and for the last few months, had received special instructions as catechumens, having now given evidence of a spiritual state, were by the holy ordinance of baptism, admitted to church membership. Their names are, Michael Diehl, Charles A. Hay, William A. Passavant, Walter Gunn, Thomas Hill, Rebecca Smith, Georgiana Morris, Annetta Ulery, Ann Turner, Mary Kiehl, Hannah Conrad, Catherine Luther, and Eliza Range. Four others, who were in the same class of catechumens, but who did not afford evidence of true repentan and faith, were not admitted. They, with other will form another class, soon to be organized On account of the sudden illness of Bro. Kistler the communion, which was to be held on the 27th of December, was postponed till the 10th of Jan., when the thirteen converts would commune for the first time. In the mean time, however, one of the four just mentioned, had become much impressed with the truth, and had been deeply distressed from a sense of his sinful state. A hope is expressed that a good work had begun in his heart, and he would probably be baptized on the Sunday of communion.

In view of the fact that some of the larger boys and girls were about to leave the school and settle on the reserved lands, the missionaries had made known to the natives around their readiness to receive some new recruits, and the chief, Jolla Billa, the constant friend of the mission, had brought them four of his own boys to be reared in the school, and another "head man" had brought them one boy.

The rice crop raised by the mission boys, under the supervision of Bro. Heigerd, had been gathered and threshed, and measured 237 "kroos," (half bushels.) Some of the boys were sawing lumber to repair and improve the buildings, and things, generally, at the mission were "moving along pleasantly."

Bro. Kistler had, on the 4th of January, witnessed, at Monrovia, the Capital of Liberia, the inauguration of Hon. Daniel B. Warner, president elect of the Republic. It was a joyous occasion; there were processions, speeches, a dinner, and so on, all passing off peaceably, and at night the town was brilliantly illuminated.

It is the design of the Executive Committee, in a few weeks, to send forth another missionary to Muhlenberg, and also during the year to erect some additional buildings, and introduce into the little community there, some further means for the promotion of its agricultural operations. The friends of the mission, therefore, are hereby informed, that any contributions which they may be able now to make, will be thankfully received, and applied to the purposes just mentioned. Donations may be remitted by mail to the subscriber at Lancaster, Pa., or to Martin Buehler, Esq., Philadelphia, Pa. A ship will sail from New York for Monrovia, during the latter part of April, when letters can be sent direct. The letters should be directed to the care of Yates & Porterfield, 115 Wall street, New York. A three-cent postage stamp is all that is necessary on each letter, as it will be carried free of charge from New York to Monrovia. M. OFFICER.

Lancaster, Pa., March 9th, 1864.

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aith, by Rev. Hamilton. 18mo.
18mo.

AFRICAN MISSION.

The following brief letter, though not designed for publication, contains one or two items of intelligence, and will show the spirit in which our devoted Missionaries meet the trials of missionary life in Africa. M. OFFICER.

Muhlenburg Mission, Jan. 28, 1864.

DEAR BRO:—Last night I had the great pleasure of receiving a letter from you. O, how glad I am to get news from the States! My health has not been good for four or five weeks. I have performed very little labor for the last four weeks, and for the last two, have been quite ill. This morning I walked to the river for the first time during two weeks. I have become greatly reduced in flesh; and this I think is all the better. I feel now as though I had gotten pretty well over my acclimating attacks, and may build up and enjoy health. I am at least not at all discouraged, but feel assured that the Lord has a great work for me to do here.

Bro. Heigerd is quite feeble, and is merely able to go about. He however still hesitates about going home, as he does not like to leave me alone. He was carried to Millsburg (two miles) on Monday, and succeeded in getting to the Cape, (Monrovia, twenty-five miles from Millsburg, by boat) and having attended to his business, returned last night, (Wed.)

We have now eight new school-children of the Golah tribe. Four of these, brought by Golla Billa, we call, Charles A. Heinitsh, Morris Officer, George M. Settlemoyer, and George F. Stelling The other four brought by Georgear (another chief,) we call Henry H. Zeigler, Peter Sahm, Garrison Draper and Annie Gundaker; only one girl.

The boys are cutting farm, (clearing off for planting.) All things move along smoothly and pleasantly. I look for my wife in the next New York vessel. All is right about my salary. The children who were received into the Church are consistent. I get no newspaper from America except the Lutheran Observer. I must have more news. Please send me a Philadelphia paper weekly, (via England.) Yours &c.,

J. KISTLER.

April 1864.

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(For the Lutheran and Missionary.)

ORDINATION OF REV. J. M. RICE.

According to previous announcement, the Rev'ds. P. Sahm, D. H. Focht, D. Sell, J. H. Steck, R. H. Fletcher, J. M. Rice and H. R. Fleck, of the Synod of Central Pennsylvania, also, Rev. M. Officer, agent for the Foreign Mission Committee, and Rev. G. B. Ort, of the Miami Synod, of Ohio, met, in Ministerial Session, on the afternoon of the 19th inst., in Lewistown, for the purpose of making arrangements for the ordination of the Rev. J. M. Rice. After hearing the report of the committee, previously appointed, it was Resolved, That we ordain Bro. J. M. Rice.

At half past seven in the evening, a large congregation having assembled, an instructive and edifying discourse, was delivered by Rev. P. Sahm, from 1st Timothy, 4: 16. After sermon, in obedience to the resolution passed in the afternoon, Rev. J. M. Rice was invited to present himself for ordination. The solemn rite was performed, according to the usual ceremony, by the imposition of the hands of the officers and brethren present, and by the invocation of the Holy Spirit in prayer. After these services, the Rev. M. Officer addressed Bro. Rice, with regard to the duties, trials and reward of a missionary. He presented to him the shadows as well as the lights of missionary life. The congregation was then dismissed by the singing of a hymn and the pronouncing of the benediction. Bro. Rice now awaits the sailing of the vessel which will carry himself and family to Muhlenberg mission. May the blessing of Almighty God attend his labors, and may the time soon come when the shackles shall fall from the body of every one of Afric's sable sons, and they also obtain that liberty with which Christ makes men free.

H. R. FLECK, Secretary.

MUHLENBURG MISSIONS.

From brief notes accompanying business letters, written by Bros. Heigerd and Kistler, at Muhlenberg Mission, March 1st, 1864, we learn that the affairs of the Mission were still in a prosperous condition, although Bro. Heigerd's health was very feeble. Bro. Kistler says: "I received your kind letter by the New York vessel. I looked anxiously for my family, but they did not come. Such are the ways of Providence. We must let patience have its perfect work. Since I last wrote, I have been able to teach only from three to five days in the week, but I hope soon to be in the school all the time. I have Rebecca and Diehl, (two of the more advanced Congoes,) teaching the (recently received) Golah children. These children are learning right fast. They can nearly all repeat the Lord's Prayer, and they are beginning to spell pretty well. The boys (that is those about to leave the Mission) are now cutting their own forms. All are as well as usual."

After a financial statement, Bro. Heigerd says: "My health is very feeble. I am, in fact, not able to do anything. All my friends, and the doctors too, advise me to go to America at once. You may therefore look for me home in June, the Lord willing. I go very reluctantly, but hope it may be for the best. I hope and pray that God may prosper this Mission."

About the 12th of June, Rev. J. M. Rice, and wife, and also Mrs. Kistler, who has been so long detained in this country, by the illness of her baby, intend to embark on the bark Greyhound, at New York, for this interesting and fruitful field of labor. And, as we thus increase our force of devoted laborers, we again ask the friends of Missions to aid us by both their prayers and their contributions.

M. OFFICER.

Lancaster, Pa., May 27th, 1864.

Life of Major-General Burne. 18mo.
Scenes in Chusan, or Missionary Labors. 18mo.
Jeannie's Scrap-book. 18mo.
The Duties and Responsibilities of the Pastoral Office. 18mo.
The Offices of Christ, by Rev. W. S. Plummer. 18mo.
The Divine Purpose Displayed, by Rev. J. Matthews. 18mo.
Rev. John Owen on Indwelling Sin. 18mo.
The Little Boy's Treasury of Precious Things. 18mo.
A Manual of the Christian Sabbath, by Rev. S. Miller, D.D. 18mo.
The Three Last Things, viz: Death, Judgment, and Eternity. 18mo.
Pictures of Truth. 18mo.
The Book of Popery, by Ingram Cobbin. 18mo.
Aunt Ruth, or the Persecuted not Forsaken. 18mo.
Life of Rev Jas. Hervey. 18mo.
Scripture Doctrine of Sanctification, by W. D. Snodgrass, D.D. 18mo.

(For the Lutheran and Missionary.)

AFRICAN MISSION.

Preliminary to the sailing of Rev. J. M. Rice and wife, and Mrs. Kistler, wife of Rev. J. Kistler, for Muhlenberg Mission, on the St. Paul's River, West Africa, a Union Farewell Missionary Meeting was held in Dr. F. W. Geisenheiner's Church, New York, on the evening of the 14th of the present month. The meeting, though not large, was still respectable in numbers, and was very spirited.

After singing, prayer was offered by Rev. A. H. M. Held. An appropriate address was made in the German language by Dr. Geisenheiner, and two brief but pointed addresses in the English language were made by Rev. S. Barnitz and Rev. V. L. Conrad. These were followed by an affectionate farewell by Bro. Rice, after which a contribution was solicited by the Superintendent, and the audience promptly responded in the giving of two hundred and one dollars and forty cents—partly in the way of making Life Members of the Foreign Missionary Society, and partly by a collection. The exercises closed with singing and prayer by Rev. E. J. Koons, of Brooklyn. Altogether this was one of the most interesting missionary meetings that the writer has ever attended. Many of the members of St. James' Church, under the pastoral care of Rev. J. L. Schock, were present, and as will be seen by the treasurer's acknowledgment of the receipts, took a prominent part in the contribution of funds.

On Wednesday evening, the 15th inst, the missionaries went on board the bark Greyhound, then lying at the dock in the East River; and on Thursday forenoon, the vessel loosed from her moorings and started down the bay. A brief note written on board by Bro. Rice, and brought back by the tug-boat, says that all were well, and well pleased, and that they expected a pleasant passage, although the small vessel is very much crowded. Our missionaries will have pleasant fellow-passengers, as there are are four other missionaries on board, destined for places south of Liberia. Captain Yates, with whom they sail, is not only an experienced seaman, but also a most kind and accommodating gentleman.

Only a day or two before these missionaries embarked, a brief letter, dated March 22d, 1864, was received from Bro. Kistler, from which I make the following extracts:

"This evening I heard that Captain Weber was at Monrovia, and would sail for America in a day or so. As Mr. Washington's boat is going down to the cape to-morrow, I will write you a few lines. . . . . Since I wrote you last, I have been pretty well—have taught nearly every day—have given out provisions—done the trading (purchasing of articles needed) nearly all, and directed the children at work. We must

have help; there is work enough here for three persons. . . . Bro. Heigerd is quite feeble—he has suffered very much for a long time. He will leave for America about the first of May, in Capt. Alexander's vessel. . . . We burned one mission farm and two of the boys' farms last week. The boys are clearing and preparing for the sowing of rice. Two of the boys will build on the south of the mission farm, and two on the north. They have nearly all the timber on the ground for building. The girls are planting ginger, and the little boys cassada."

Religiously, we are in an encouraging condition. The children who were baptized and thus received into the church, walk consistently, and exert a good influence on the rest. Next Sabbath, a week, God willing, we will again have communion. I have a class of catechumens, but think I will receive none into the church this time. I could not attend to them as I wished, on account of illness. Some of them, I believe, are converted, but they need more instruction. The children are very much pleased with their new Bibles, hymn-books, geographies and arithmetics. The children recently received are doing well. The cloth you sent us is in great demand. We sell only for such trade as palm oil, rice, cotton, &c., (needed at the mission.) . . . We ought to have a new house for the boys. All is well at the mission.

May God preserve our missionaries from the dangers of the great deep, and prosper their labors when in their appointed fields! O.

Lancaster, Pa., June 15th, 1863.

For the Lutheran Observer.

Farewell Missionary Meeting in New York.

Some time since the papers chronicled the "setting apart" of br. J. M. Rice to the special work of Muhlenberg Mission, in Western Africa. It is but proper that his departure for his field of labor, and at least some of the circumstances attending it, should be made known to the church.

Br. Rice and family, together with Mrs. Kistler, (wife of br. Kistler, now in Africa,) sailed on Thursday, June 16th, from the port of New York. Br. Officer had been in New York several days before purchasing supplies, and making other necessary arrangements for the Mission in general, and for the comfort of the little band of Gospel laborers, during their long and uninviting journey. We confess that when first informed of the means of conveyance to their distant home, we felt indignant. We felt that a church accepting the services of brethren for the missionary work ought to do everything possible for their comfort, and especially during the sea voyage. To know, then, that in a little vessel of not four hundred tons burden, this band of brethren were to brave the great deep, caused no small stir in our mind, and lead to the exclamation, that it was a shame to permit missionaries to sail under so much discomfort. We

Portion of Minutes of General Synod at Fort Wayne Ind May 1866

...ness. We felt that a church accepting the services of brethren for the missionary work ought to do everything possible for their comfort, and especially during the sea voyage. To know, then, that in a little vessel of not four hundred tons burden, this band of brethren were to brave the great deep, caused no small stir in our mind, and lead to the exclamation, that it was a shame to permit missionaries to sail under so much discomfort. We soon learned, however, that the matter was a necessity. There is only occasional direct communication with that portion of Africa, and those who go must go as Providence appoints. For those who go, it is no small item in the estimate we make of their love to Jesus and devotion to His cause, that they thus voluntarily deny themselves. May He whose is the work, and whom even the winds and the sea obey, keep them in all their journey, and cause them safely to land in the desired haven.

Among the arrangements made by br. Officer was a farewell meeting. This took place in Rev. Dr. Geissenhainer's church. Though not as largely attended as might have been desired, yet it was a most interesting occasion. There were present from German churches, Dr. Geissenhainer, Revs. Held and Bieren; from English churches, Dr. Schoch, Revs. Officer, Conrad, Barnitz, of Wheeling, Koons, and of course Rice. After singing and prayer by Rev. Held, Dr. Geissenhainer made an address in German, closing with an earnest exhortation to his people to support the African Mission, and invoking the protection and blessing of God upon br. Rice. Rev. Barnitz followed in a brief address, who was in turn followed by Rev. V. L. Conrad. These addresses were earnest appeals to duty as developed by our relations to Christ, to his church, to human kind, and especially to the African race. After these various addresses, a collection was announced. Whilst the boxes were passing around, a proposition came from one in the congregation to be one of five to constitute Dr. Geissenhainer, the pastor of the church, a life member of the Foreign Missionary Society. Before a second voice could be heard, Dr. Geissenhainer himself arose and said that he would give $25 to make Rev. Held a life member. This was followed by prompt responses to the first proposition.—Then Mrs. G. was made a life member, then Mr. Glimm, President of the church Board, and also Dr. Schoch. Thus in less than ten minutes five persons were constituted life members, and a collection taken, amounting in all to *two hundred and one dollars and forty cents*—a very handsome sum, remembering that it was almost purely impromptu. Br. Officer felt delighted, and declared it, taking all in all, the most successful missionary meeting he ever attended. We who were present rejoiced that something more than mere emotional sympathy was manifested. We were especially glad to see how promptly our German brethren of Dr. Geissenhainer's church, responded to this appeal in behalf of the African Mission. No better evidence need be wanted of an intelligent conception in the work to be done in the vineyard of our blessed Lord.

Br. Officer was, [illegible] master of ceremonies, and gave a [illegible] interesting de- [illegible] interest [illegible] manifested ma- [illegible] Presen[illegible]

teacher in the Palnaud, and as such, has the supervision of all the schools, and a sort of sub-supervision over the congregations. In one of his last letters he thus alludes to the response given last summer, by the churches and Sunday-schools, to our appeal in his behalf, and to the action of your Committee. "You can but faintly conceive the delight and thankfulness with which your very kind letter was received and read by us. The kind wishes, the expressions of Christian love and sympathy, and the favorable resolutions of the Committee, respecting my wants, have all so deeply impressed us, that we were at once constrained to lift up our hearts in grateful praise to our gracious God above," &c. He speaks of the transfer of the Mission to the supervision of Rev. Mr. Unangst. He refers with a sorrowing heart to the afflictions in Brother Gronning's family, which have caused his departure from the Mission field. In his report of 16th October last, he gives us an account of the Mission agents, the people of their congregations, the children of their schools, and of the heathen around them. But the length of this report forbids even an abstract here.

STATISTICS, 1865.—Communing members 125; Children 150, (whole number 275;) Telugu schools 7; Teachers 7; Scholars 60; Boys 50, Girls 10; Inquirers 145; Colporteurs 2.

Minutes General Synod Ft Wayne Ind- May 1864

AFRICAN MISSION.

Permit us now to turn your attention to another interesting and successful Mission of our church. We say, as a learned and worthy brother of the faith once said to the Secretary, respecting our India Mission: "Somebody must be praying for this Mission." For, during its brief history, other and contiguous missions have arisen and disappeared. The uniform testimony of all our Missionaries in Africa has been strong in its favor. Brother Kistler is full of praises in its behalf; so much so, that he fears the charge of egotism. But let me refer you to an address of Hon. Abraham Hanson, Commissioner and Consul General of the United States to Liberia, delivered by him before the Forty-ninth meeting of the American Colonization Society, (in the First Presbyterian Church, Washington, D. C.,) on the 16th of last January. This able address is in the African Repository for March, 1866. Mr. Hanson speaks thus: "The Muhlenberg or Lutheran Mission, on the St. Paul's river, is, according to my humble opinion, moving in a manner, and in a direction, which promises more general, gratifying, important, and permanent results than can be readily conceived or set forth. The indefatigable Missionary, Rev. Mr. Kistler, bestows his labors chiefly upon re-captured or liberated Africans, and other aborigines, who are instructed in manual labor, in a knowledge of letters, and in the doctrines of the Christian religion." Mr. Kistler, in one of his last letters, states that "the farm school" is admired by many, if not by all visitors. In a letter dated Muhlenberg, Augus 17th, 1865, he gives the following exhibit of the Mission, the number of children, and condition of things in general. "There are now," he says, "belonging to the Mission, 41 children—26 boys and 15 girls. There are also 5 girls and 5 boys married, who are living on the reservation, on ten acre lots. There are, therefore, in all who have been at the Mission, 51 persons now there. Besides these, 5 have died at the mission. Of the 51,—23 are members of our infant church. We hold our communion four times a year·

Our preaching, weekly prayer meetings, Sabbath school, and other religious exercises are well attended. The children are making very creditable progress in the school. Three—2 boys and 1 girl are rendering important aid in teaching. Each teaches about half an hour a day. "The Missionary work," continues Mr. Kistler, "is a delightful work. To see forty or fifty youths growing up under our immediate supervision, and one by one forsaking their superstitious notions and their idolatrous habits, and dedicating themselves to the Lord, is most cheering, most delightful." Indeed your Committee would reiterate, so far it is most cheering. But there are lights and shades in the history of every mission. We cannot refrain from expressing our regret, that the founder of this Mission, and the general and financial agent of our Society, felt himself constrained to tender his resignation to the Executive Committee, December 7th, 1864, retiring entirely from the foreign department of our Mission work. At the meeting of the above date, held in Albany, N. Y., "the Committee expressed their great satisfaction with the services of Brother Officer, in connection with the financial agency." They also expressed "their most cordial regret, because of the necessity requiring his presence in another field of labor, invoking the favor of God upon him and his efforts in future, for the honor of Jesus' name." Brother Officer reported, that there was paid on the Altemus Legacy into the African Fund, $557 15. Besides this, a note for $300, due October 27th, 1865, was given by Mr. Nicholas Altemus, of Indiana Co., Pa., executor of the Will of the late Adam Altemus. These sums make six-sevenths of the Altemus Legacy of $1000, bequeathed to the African Mission, or the six shares that were voluntarily released by the heirs who were of age, and who could, under the laws of Pennsylvania, have claimed the money.

The Committee would also report the return of Brother H. Heigerd from this Mission, on account of ill health. He was entirely prostrated in body, unable to continue his work in the Mission, where he had labored so faithfully and successfully. Nothing could save him but a return to this country. He arrived in New York, December 11th, 1864. His wife had preceded him to the same place, where she has since died. Mr. Heigerd has lately written us that his health is now good. He has a conditional appointment to Africa, but has not yet accepted it. We have met with another dark and mysterious providence in the early failure of the health of Brother Rice and his companion. His will was good, his love for his work true, but his frail constitution very soon gave way, under that withering climate which is so fatal to the white man. He landed in New York on the 26th of last July. He was just seven months and one week in the Mission service. In consequence of the want of laborers, Brother Kistler employed a Miss Mary Daoney as teacher, who came well recommended by Hon. Mr. James and Prof. Blagden. She labored acceptably some three months, and then died. A Mrs. Burns, widow of the well-known Bp. Burns, of Liberia, succeeded her; who is very competent as teacher, &c., and is very acceptable in her services. A young man by the name of Jacobs, lately from the Presbyterian Mission, has joined Brother Kistler's force, who is destined to be a valuable helper in the work for which he is preparing. We would inform the brethren that the African available fund is now overdrawn, by nearly $500; which must be

taken out of the $1000 invested. The returning Missionaries, and a heavy shipment of Goods to Africa, sent off on the 24th of last March, have made heavy drafts upon our treasury. Brethren, a native force is now in this Mission in due course of preparation, which, through God's blessing, will be a mighty power for good in that dark land. We depend upon you, to say whether the legitimate results now anticipated, and ardently desired, shall be realized or not. To be realized, you must immediately and liberally lift subscriptions, and send out a reinforcement forthwith. "Oh," says Mr. Hanson, to whom I have referred, "Oh, for a host of honest, upright, earnest, devoted, self-sacrificing, well-instructed men, to go forth, and enter this rich, ripe field!"

GENERAL FUND.

Receipts,	$19,340 91
Disbursements,	15,743 59
Balance in Treasury,	$3,597 32

AFRICAN FUND.

Receipts,	$6,323 58
Paid out,	5,787 51
Balance in Treasury,	$536 07

In concluding their report, the Executive Committee return into your hands the sacred trusts which you have long since committed to their charge. Thanking you for your continued and unbroken confidence in us, thinking that we have borne our share of the burdens in this department of the great work of our beloved Church, and believing that there are other and younger brethren that will serve you as well, we feel admonished to retire from the Executive department of our Foreign Mission. We assure you, dear brethern, that we shall never lose sight of its interests, never cease to pray for its permanency, enlargement, and saving power in the conversion of very many of the benighted heathen. May the rich blessing of the Lord of the harvest rest upon the Society, upon its work, its committee, and all its laborers! And finally, may the baptism of the Holy Spirit be vouchsafed to the churches!

Executive Committee,
J. Z. SENDERLING,
HENRY N. POHLMAN,
WM. N. SCHOLL,
ANDREW WETZEL.

GREATER INTEREST IN FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The following resolution was proposed, and, after having been discussed at some length, the further consideration of it was postponed until the evening session:

Resolved, That we feel it to be our religious duty to make more earnest efforts in our several spheres to secure an increased interest throughout our church in the work of Foreign Missions.

(For the Lutheran and Missionary.)

AFRICAN MISSION.

Letters, dated as late as June 2d, 1864, have been received from Muhlenberg, per the Thomas Pope, Captain Alexander, of New York.

Brother Heigerd's health had so greatly improved just before the vessel left Liberia, that he decided on delaying his return home. He says: "I had made all my arrangements to go to America—had even packed my trunks, in part, and was waiting for Captain Alexander on his return to New York; but he did not come at the time appointed, and, in the meantime, God so mercifully and wonderfully restored my health, that I felt it my duty to remain. If I die here, it is only what I wish to do. I wish to die on the battle-field, and to be buried there. It would give me a great deal of pleasure to see my friends in America; but, if we are faithful to God, we will soon meet in heaven." Brother Kistler reports, that, "For the last five or six weeks, his health had been as good as it ever was in America, except a few slight attacks of fever, lasting only half a day, or sometimes a day." He was, therefore, able to "teach three days in the week, (Bro. Heigerd teaching the rest of the time,) to catechize once a week, lecture on Wednesday evening, and preach and conduct Sabbath-school on Sunday."

The Manual Labor Department of the Mission was doing well. The rice crop for the season had been sown, though not so large a one as that of last year, on account of Bro. Heigerd's being unable to superintend the work, as he had done before. About one acre of land had been planted in ginger; gardening had begun, and various kinds of seeds sent out were being tried, and the results noted for future report.

The four large boys, (now young men,) Chas. P. Krauth, John D. Martin, William A. Passavant and Charles A. Hay, had chosen their lots on the reserved lands adjoining the Mission farm, had cleared off and sown their rice-fields, and had nearly finished their respective little dwellings, and, therefore, one item in the list of articles ordered is that of "marriage certificates." These boys were working most industriously, sometimes going out to work "before daylight," and thereupon the hope is expressed, that they will do well for themselves.

The school and Sunday-school were both in a good condition, as the pupils generally were advancing in their attainments, and the little Golah children last received were "learning rapidly," and were giving the missionaries "no trouble."

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War. New York, 1860. 8vo.

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Manchester, England. 2 vols

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el G. Drake. Boston, 1862.

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politicians and envious military
62. 8vo. 2 copies.
genbuch. Albany, 1861. 8vo.

entiary. Albany, 1862. 8vo.

Tract and Missionary Society.

r 1862. Albany. 12mo. 2

r 1861. Albany, 1862. 8vo.

Constitution and By-Laws of the Board of Trade of Albany. Albany, 1862. 8vo.

The infant church was also prosperous. The thirteen youths received into its communion three months ago, were "living as consistently as could possibly be expected of persons so recently brought under the influence of the gospel." There was also a "marked increase of attention to the word of God whenever it was preached."

The general news are, that a large rebel privateer passed down the coast in sight of Munrovia about the 15th of May, and created great consternation, as one or two American trading ships, that are great favorites with the Liberians, were at the time on the lower coast. The war between the interior native tribes was still "raging as fearfully as ever," but no fear was felt for the safety of the Mission. A hapless young alligator, "three feet long," in tampering too much with a wolf-trap, set [redacted] to catch the worrisome leopards about the Mission, had lost his life. The crops of sugar and coffee along the St. Paul's River were unusually large the past season, "perhaps as much as in all previous years together;" and still larger preparations were going on for the production of these two articles during the present year. A large new steam sugar-mill had been erected only about three miles below our Mission, and on the same side of the river. Other improvements were going forward in this part of the Republic.

Besides the letters from the missionaries, we have this time sundry minor epistles from the Christian youths of the Mission. These epistles, written in a tolerable hand, contain warm personal greetings, and abound in expressions of gratitude for the great favors they have received from American Christians, and especially from God, the Father of all. They recount the studies pursued at the Mission, and the progress made in them, the various meetings held, the work done in the garden and elsewhere, and the joyful times at the Mission on "Saturdays, when they have singing and music on the melodeon." Four years ago, these children were the veriest heathen, totally ignorant of God and of Christian civilization. Let us thank God and take courage! M. OFFICER.

Lancaster, Pa., July 19, 1864.

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ened in regular session in the
, on the 7th day of May, 1862.

Reg. N. Y. V., who died Nov.

nnual Commencement of the
By Prof. J. M. Ward, M.D.

nistry of the Rev. Dr. Wyckoff,
ny, 1862. 8vo.
Bible Society. Albany, 1862.

of Hon. Edward McPherson,

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For the Lutheran Observer.

Muhlenberg Mission.

On Sabbath, 10th of April, we had our second communion season since my arrival here. Our meeting began on Wednesday evening, and continued until Sabbath evening. During these meetings the children seemed to be deeply interested, and the young members of the church prayed earnestly for the conversion of all their unconverted companions. It was truly a refreshing season to all of us. God was with us, we felt his Spirit in our hearts. From the fact of me being ill much of the time, during the interval between the first and second time of our communions, I was not able to hear my class of catechumens as frequently as I desired, hence thought it best to instruct them three months longer before admitting any to church fellowship. Our young members whom I received into the church some time ago have been living very consistently, and some are zealous and faithful workers in the vineyard of the Lord; reproving sin in others, and admonishing them to turn from their evil ways and give their hearts to the Lord. They also speak words of comfort to the weak. These faithful ones are some of the most intelligent children, and I feel them already to be quite a help to me. Our Wednesday evening prayer meeting is attended by all the children, and as they are advancing in the acquisition of the English language and general knowledge their prayers are becoming more intelligent both in our prayer-meetings and Sabbath services; the children listen with increased attention to the Word of God as it is expounded.

The Sabbath School is in a flourishing condition; many of the children are becoming fond of reading. We have not as many books as we would like to have; could not one of our large Sabbath Schools send us some of their books which they have laid aside? The day school is doing as well as I could expect. In this department we greatly need help. Br. Heigerd has not been able to teach for four or five months; I have been ill during part of that time, so that the school was left in the hands of sister Arnet, who has as many outside duties as she can perform. I rejoice that there is a prospect of help coming.

This is a busy time with us—the rains are just setting in, and it is the time for planting our rice, edoes, potatoes, gardening, &c. The dries were long and severe, yet our coffee, hedge fence, &c., endured them very well.—The coffee trees look very fine, and the hedge is growing rapidly. Next year, (if I am spared and it meets with the approbation of the superintendent and Executive Committee) I intend to have some sugar cane planted, as we have some land which is well adapted to the raising of cane. There has been an immense quanity of sugar and coffee raised this season. Hundreds of thousands of pounds have been sent to America and England. It is a very valuable crop and is very easily cultivated, as it need be planted but once, after which it will grow from the root.

A few days ago I attended the dedication of a large steam sugar mill, located two miles and a half below us, on the bank of the St. Paul's. The President of the republic, with some of his cabinet, together with many other distinguished citizens, were present on the occasion. Speeches were made by the President, several Rev. gentlemen and lawyers, after which all were invited to a well furnished table. Though there were two or three hundred persons present, all were supplied.—Every thing passed of quietly and orderly.—This is the fourth steam sugar mill that has been erected on the St. Paul's river within the last few years, some 15 or 18 besides are worked by animal power. Liberia is a fixed fact. She is now, by the blessing of God, prepared to take a respectable stand with other civilized nations of the world. She has great wealth; all that is wanting is devolopment.—Her wealth is in the soil, no country in the world is better adapted to the raising of sugar cane and coffee than this. I am glad to see that the land holders are beginning to wake up to see their real interests; until recently nearly every one trafficked in palm oil, with the natives, and neglected their farms. But this year they are gathering up all the cane tops they can get, and some even pay $6 per thousand for them. This is a move in the right direction.

The petty wars which have been kept up around us for several years are subsiding.—Some time ago a party of warriors came from the east side of the river to this (west) side to attack a town but a few miles from us. They were, however, sent after the same day by several kings who live near the bank of the river, and who are peace men. The natives are very friendly with us, and bring us palm oil, rice, fowls, &c. in exchange for American dry goods, iron kettles, &c., &c.

It is frequently reported that war is coming here. The other night some of our boys were out fishing; a few of our neighbor king's men, who were fishing too, came up to them. The boys cried out, "Who's there!" No answer; on came the men. The boys became frightened and ran for home. When they arrived, they soon had all the boys armed with cutlasses and guns, and then came and told me that war was coming, they saw some men

from another country with long hair, &c. I laughed at them, and told them they were some neighbor natives trying to frighten them; and so it turned out to be. Next morning these men from another country came and offered us their fish for sale. They were natives who lived close by us. I have never felt the least danger. Some of the natives refused for some time to give us any of their children, for fear they would be taken from us by their enemies. We however finally convinced them that they would be safer with us than with them, and got the children.

My health is very good now. I have as good health and as much energy as I had in America. During the fever, for three or four months, I was very weak, and had but little inclination to do anything. The fever is very prostrating. Br. Heigerd's health has improved slightly; he, however, feels it his duty, as he is advised by the physicians, to go to the states to recover his health. He will leave the Mission in a few days. May the Lord give him a safe and speedy voyage, and may it be blessed to the restoration of his health. The children are well as usual; some still have yaws. Let all who read these letters lift their hearts in prayer to God for Muhlenberg Mission. J. KISTLER.

P. S. May 10th. Br. Heigerd has this day, after consulting a physician, concluded not to go to the states at present. His health has recently somewhat improved. J. K.

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For the Lutheran Observer.

Muhlenberg Mission.

I presume you have been informed before this that the missionaries, Rev. J. M. Rice and family and my own family, who embarked from New York on the 16th of June, on the bark Grayhound, arrived at Monrovia on the 25th of July. They had a speedy and pleasant voyage. On the 27th I met them all at Monrovia in good spirits and with improved health. This was especially the case with our little son, who had been ill so long in America. On the morning of the 28th we ascended the beautiful St. Pauls—arrived at the mission between 6 and 7 o'clock P. M. We had the pleasure of Rev. T. Burrow's company, who remained with us one night. Rev. Burrows is a young man of excellent parts; he is a missionary to Cape Palmas. The newly arrived missionaries remained well until the 13th of August, when br. Rice and lady and the two babies took an attack of fever. The attacks of all were light. Br. Rice, I believe, had no chill, yet he had fever and also a cold connected with it. Mrs. Kistler took her first attack on the 18th inst., and though she has been able to be up most of the time, she feels very weak and indisposed, which is a natural result of African fever. The rest of the missionaries have not gotten along as well thus far as Mrs. Kistler, yet, as above intimated, none of them have suffered severely. All have been up to the present time, able to sit up part of the day, and all are now in a fair way of getting over this attack safely. My own health, on account of over exertion in getting our goods to the mission, and on account of a multiplicity of duties to perform, such as waiting on the sick, superintending the building of the boys house, teaching, preaching, &c., &c., has not been so good. I have, however, all the time except four or five days been able to attend to my duties. The children at the mission are as well as usual; those who had the yaws have nearly all recovered. The boys and girls who were recently married, and are living in their own houses, are doing well.—Two of them, Geiger and Krauth, have been doing a good part of the sawing for the house we are erecting. A few days ago Krauth was unfortunate in having a stick of timber fall on him by the giving away of the pit; he is not now able to saw. I may say, in sawing timber here, the log is first hewed and then lined, after which it is pushed up on skates or poles, the ends of which rest on the ground and on a pole supported by forks, about five or six feet from the ground, when the log is pushed up to the forks supporting the pole, the end of the skates resting on the ground are raised and supported by forks. One sawyer then stands on top of the log and one on the ground underneath, and in this way they saw the stick. In this way all the timber—of which there is not a little sawed—is sawed. One of the forks giving way, Krauth, who was underneath, was struck—no bones were broken, but he was badly bruised. The rest of the boys who are free are employed by the mission to plant coffee, hedge, potatoes, eddoes, &c.

Four carpenters are working at the boys house, and will complete it in a few weeks, if we do not have too much rain. The lumber is nearly all on the ground and some of the boys are now bringing in stones for the foundation.

Religiously, we are getting along very comfortably. Of all the children who have been received into church fellowship, none have been guilty of any gross violation of the law of God, but on the other hand they are in general very faithful to their christian duties, such as attending preaching, Sabbath school, prayer-meetings, &c. I am pleased to say that those of the boys and girls who have most influence over the rest exert it in favor of the cause of Christ.

Our Sabbath school has been well attended, but have suffered for want of teachers. I hope that our dear missionaries who recently arrived will soon be restored to health, and will be able to help in the work of the Lord.

The school is doing well. The children were much pleased with the Bibles and music books recently sent by br. Officer, the money for which was so kindly donated by our dear friends. I hope the Lord may bless and reward them. Be assured, dear friends, that books of all kinds are put to a good use at Muhlenberg.

Our vegetables on the farm are growing nicely. The young coffee trees are bearing abundantly this season.

We are putting out about 1,500 coffee trees these rains. To-day the boys began to cut rice, of which we have six or eight acres.

The country around us is now at peace—for years we have had petty wars carried on, but the various tribes seem to have settled their palavers (disputes). These wars were carried on principally for plunder.

August, 31st, 1864. J. KISTLER.

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For the Lutheran Observer.

African Mission.

Some cheering items of intelligence will be found in the following brief extracts of letters recently received from our missionaries at Muhlenberg Mission, West Africa.

Under date of July 29th, Rev. J. Kistler, who for many months had been awaiting the arrival of his wife and little child from this country, says: "It is with great pleasure that I now can inform you that the dear missionaries have arrived safely and in good health.—They landed at Monrovia on the 25th inst.—I got news of their arrival on the 26th, and with Mr. Harrison's large canoe started for the Cape on the morning of the 27th; I met my dear wife and child on shore. We came up the river on the 28th, and arrived safely at the mission in the evening. We had a very pleasant day for the trip, and all were delighted with the beautiful scenery along the St. Pauls. They are all in good spirits, and my wife and child are in better health than they were when they embarked in America.—I am now grateful to you for the judicious purchases you made for us. We got some of our goods up yesterday and will get the rest to-morrow. I will let the missionaries speak for themselves in regard to their opinion of matters and things at the mission. We will immediately proceed in the erection of the 'Boys' House.' Mr. Jacobs (a colored man connected with the mission church) will do the carpenter work. My health is still very good. I am very well satisfied that I am to continue pastor of the church. I now have most of the words in the Golah language arranged in alphabetical order."

On the same date of the above, Rev. J. M. Rice, who lately left this country for Africa, says: "I had commenced a letter to you while on the ship, but I will now write again from my new home. Our arrival here was very welcome. The mission children were anxiously waiting to receive us. I have not been here long enough to become much acquainted with any of them. That part of the mission house heretofore unoccupied is nearly ready for our occupancy. * * I like the situation of the mission very much, and when we once become comfortably fixed will feel very much at home. Everything looks well on the farm; but the appearance in the house is not so good. (There had been no lady missionary there for some months.)

"I will tell you how I stood the sea voyage. We found the captain, Yates, one of the kindest of men. He did all in his power to make us comfortable. But with all his kindness he could not keep us from getting seasick. I made my berth my constant friend during half of the voyage. I am now very well. I helped to celebrate, at Monrovia, the 26th of July—the anniversary of Liberian Independence, and feasted at the bountiful table of Dr. M. Gill, and I must say that I never saw a table so richly laden with good things. I would like to write you many other things, but cannot for want of time."

Br. Heigerd, who has for some time been in feeble health, left the mission immediately after br. Rice's arrival, and went to Cape Palmas, whence he will return to the United States; but will perhaps not reach home before the middle of December. M. Officer.

Lancaster, Pa., Oct. 21st, 1864.

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For the Lutheran Observer.

The African Mission.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions, held here yesterday and to-day, the resignation of the undersigned, as General Agent, was formally received, and as this general agency embraced the superintendence of the African Mission, that superintendence has now ceased, and all the books, papers, &c., of the mission have been transferred to the Corresponding Secretary, Rev. J. Z. Senderling, Johnstown, Fulton county, N. Y., to whom, hereafter all letters concerning this mission should be directed. The intercourse between the committee and the agent has all along been most fraternal and harmonious and the meeting here has been most cordial. This committee, including the Corresponding Secretary, perform all their labors in behalf of our Foreign Missions gratuitously, and inasmuch as since the transfer of the African Mission to their care, more than two years and a half ago, they have manifested the same deep interest in its welfare, as in that of our other missions, ~~hereby~~ the church will continue to sustain them in their difficult but noble work.

The most recent intelligence from our missionaries at Muhlenberg, in Africa, is still cheering. Rev. J. M. Rice and wife, who had been very ill with African fever, were recovering very rapidly, and would soon resume their regular duties. The crops on the mission farm were very good, and the progress of the school children in learning was still very encouraging. The natives around the mission were still becoming more and more friendly to the missionaries.

A ship will sail from New York to Monrovia, Liberia, during the latter part of January, 1865, when letters and packages designed for the missionaries can be transmitted. Such letters and other articles should be sent to the care of George P. Ockershausen, Esq., 21 Rise street, New York; and a manifest or list of articles contained in the box or package with the prices thereof, should be sent to Mr. Ockershausen by mail. M. Officer.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 8, 1864.

For the Lutheran Observer.

Africa.

I will in the opening of my communication acknowledge the receipt of a fine second-hand S. S. library, presented by the Sunday-school of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. York' Pa., Rev. W. M. Baum Pastor. This was a timely donation, as our children were very much in want of a good S. S. library. The donors may feel assured that they have the warmest thanks of the missionaries and the children, and that these books will be carefully read.

The health of the missionaries is now pretty good. Although br. and sister Rice have suffered considerably, I hope they will now enjoy better health and be permitted to spend many days in benighted Africa. Oh, that the Lord would send more faithful laborers into this wide and open field of heathenism. Hundreds of laborers could find work here, and their labors of love would not be in vain, as the minds of the heathen are prepared to receive the Gospel.

Spiritually, we are doing as well as could be expected at the mission. Though we have had no special work of grace recently, yet members of the church are striving to do their duty, and some of the unconverted have recently expressed a desire to become followers of the meek and lowly Jesus. I have formed a class of catechumens lately. All of whom I hope and pray will give their hearts to the Lord, and will thus be fit subjects for baptism and church membership.

The school is in a good condition. Six of our children are now receiving special instruction, and have all the morning hours given them for study. These six express an anxiety to become missionaries and teachers. Two of them have for the past six months rendered considerable assistance in teaching. At Christmas we expect to have an examination and exhibition, at which I wish some of the friends of the mission could be present so as to see and hear for themselves.

On account of the long continuance of the rains and the difficulty of getting out lumber, the boys' house is not yet completed, though it is under roof, and will be finished in a few weeks.

Last week I was at the Cape to meet Capt. Alexander, of N. Y.—bought some flour at $22.00 per barrel, butter $1.05 per pound, hams 52c. per pound; thus you see living in Africa is high. American drafts are 50 per cent. below par. The great mass of the people in Liberia are compelled to live on the products of the country, such as potatoes, cassada, eddoes, rice, palm oil, &c. Palm oil answers the same purpose as lard or butter, most of persons are fond of it, though I think I shall never learn to eat it. Fresh meat is exceedingly scarce. We sometimes get some venison. Though deer are plentiful, yet they are hard to catch on account of the thick jungle all around. "Bush Cows" are also plentiful, but are very wild. A few days ago I walked one quarter of a mile from the house where I found the path full of the tracks of Bush cows. There seemed to be quite a herd. These wild cattle are as large as the common American cattle, and in day-time stay far back in the deep jungle; at night they come out to graze. They are said to be very ferocious. A few days ago a large sea cow was seen about half a mile above us, on the river. The last two times I was at the Cape, I saw each time an alligator; one was about ten feet long, and I was within twenty feet of him.

Things on the farm are doing well. We had a fine crop of rice, potatoes, eddoes, and cassada are quite plentiful with us. The coffee looks well, and some of the larger trees are quite full of berries. Our coffee farm will, in a few years, be quite valuable to the mission. There will be a great crop of sugar in Liberia this season, as there is much planted, and it is looking well—from $75 to $100 is made from an acre of cane.

J. KISTLER.

DEATH OF MRS. HEIGERD.

We learn, with profound regret, of the death, at the residence of her brother, Edward Kilpatrick, in N. Y., on Friday, Feb. 24th, of Mrs. Margaret Heigerd, wife of Rev. Henry Heigerd, after a long and painful sickness, contracted during ten years of missionary labor in Africa. May the God of all consolation sustain her deeply afflicted husband in this sore bereavement, and may He, in His great goodness, raise up for the holy work of missions, others who shall follow in the footsteps of this faithful, beloved, and now sainted woman. She rests in Jesus, and is in eternal joy and peace.

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Foreign Missions.

For the Lutheran Observer.

THE AFRICAN MISSION.

The Corresponding Secretary has just received letters from the Missionaries, brs. Rice and Kistler. The latter sends another communication for your paper. Br. Rice gives a very cheering account of the Mission thus: "The Mission is prospering as much, if not more, than it has heretofore done. Everything on the farm looks flourishing. The bush is gradually cut down as new land is needed. It is now (Feb. 14th, 1865,) coffee picking time. We have already gathered nine or ten pounds. The children are making commendable progress in the school. Things look bright and promising. Much has been done, but there remains much more to do. The work has just been commenced, and it must be carried on. Therefore more laborers are needed. More means will be required. A greater love for souls should manifest itself by increased liberality for the salvation of the world. O that our church could be stirred up to do her duty." &c.

I am sorry to be obliged to announce that this brother and his family feel constrained, on account of ill health, to return to America. Mr. Kistler adds in a note: "The Greyhound has just arrived, (Feb. 28th, 1865,) and br. Rice and family will leave in a few days."

COR. SECRETARY.

Johnstown, May 2, 1865.

N. B.—By the arrival of the Greyhound br. Kistler learns and regrets that the hounds (he had ordered four) had not been sent out by the Messrs. Porterfield & Co. There are plenty of deer near them, but they cannot get them easily without the hounds.

COR. SECRETARY.

For the Lutheran Observer.

AFFAIRS IN AFRICA.

The only death that has occurred at Muhlenberg since my arrival here was that of John Heck. John Heck, aged about sixteen years, has gone to eternity. After an illness of three weeks, he died on the morning of the 11th of January, 1865. His disease was the sleepy disease; he was unable to speak for eight or ten days before his death; his limbs were cold three or four days before he died; he was interred the same day he died. Of his religious hope I cannot say much. He was a member of my present catechetical class, and, when spoken to personally, he always answered; he was trying to be good. He often prayed earnestly that the Lord would give to him a new heart. He was a quiet boy, and it was difficult for me to determine whether he was truly converted or not. He has gone, and has proven to us that in the bloom of youth we may suddenly be cut off. Many persons die of the sleepy disease—it seems to be incurable. In the first stages of the disease the subject becomes very sleepy and stupid, in the last stages he looses all inclination and power to speak, the limbs become cold and stiff, and thus the subject, seemingly without much pain, dies.

The other children at the Mission are as well as usual, some have sores and a few have zaws. Sores or ulcers are a very common thing in this country. My family and I are quite well. We bless the Lord for bestowing upon us such comparative good health. It is true we have suffered some, but the Lord has at all times raised us up, and now we have fair prospects, as far as health is concerned, to remain here some time.

I am sorry to say that br. Rice and family are still subjects of suffering. Quite recently br. Rice had a very severe attack, and Mrs. Rice, about the same time, had eight successive chills in so many days. On account of their almost continuous sickness here, they have determined to embark for America by the first opportunity. We hope other help will be sent us soon. We need help greatly. We believe the Lord will raise up men who will carry this glorious and encouraging work forward. No field of labor is more inviting than this—in none can a faithful Christian laborer accomplish more good. The Lord has opened the hearts of these heathen, and they but want the Gospel brought to them, and they will receive it with open and glad hearts.

The religious interests of the Mission are in an encouraging condition. There have not recently been any striking cases of conversion, but the good seed is growing. Our meetings are attended by all, and the word is heard with due attention.

The school, on account of the illness of the Missionaries, has been somewhat neglected. We need a good teacher at once.

On the 1st of February, br. Rice and family and myself and family crossed the river to Harrisburg, to visit some friends. In the

evening, coming home, our large canoe struck a rock, turned over, and in an instant we were all dashed into the river. The water was very rapid, but not more than two or three feet deep. I had some difficulty in getting to my feet, on account of the swiftness of the water. When I stood up I found my wife and child near me in a drowning condition. The babe at first was in her arms, but had gotten a little way from her. I grasped them up at the first effort, both were speechless, but soon recovered. Br. Rice and family were rescued by the boys. All were in imminent danger, but the good Lord delivered us. Providentially a large rock was near by, on to which we clambered. From three to six men are drowned yearly on the St. Paul's.

Recently, three of Liberia's most prominent men have gone to eternity. Ex-President Benson died of an abscess in the side. Judge Drayton was drowned, and Rev. Beverly Wilson died of lung fever. One of the two former would have been a candidate for the Presidency next year. Hon. B. Warner is the only one spoken of now. He has been a faithful President, and deserves the honor of the office again. J. KISTLER.

February 28, 1864.

For the Lutheran Observer.

AFRICAN MISSION.

A DONATION.

The reception of donations by the Missionaries or children at Muhlenberg is among the uncommon things. In America many faithful Ministers are receiving donations—this is as it should be in these hard times, but isolated Missionary is forgotten; since I am here, which is now nearly two years, I have not received a copper's worth as a gift. Small gifts would be very highly appreciated by us who are cut off from the society of our dear Christian brethren and relatives. At other Missions the children receive many gifts—for example at Corisco and Gaboon Stations down the coast.

I have the pleasure, however, by the request of the party who was the recipient of a nice gift to chronicle the event as the first of the kind here and to return our warmest thanks to the kind donors.

On the evening of the 4th of March, 1865, the hearts of Charles A. Hay and Georgiana Hay were made glad by the reception of a box of articles valued at $20. The box contained calico, thread, needles,—one pair scissors, books, knives and forks, spoons, an axe, &c., &c., just the very things they needed in their young household. The kind donors of this highly appreciated box were Rev. Charles A. Hay, DD., and Georgiana Leisenring, formerly Georgiana Morris. Be assured, kind friends, your gift was received with much joy and gratitude and many a "God bless you" was uttered. I must yet mention that an interesting letter was received with the box, which was much appreciated for its excellent counsel. Who will be the next donor or donors?

The mail steamer from England to the Coast of Africa, which carried the mail sent from America about the 1st of February was lost off the coast of Ireland, it is said, in a snow storm. I have not learned the particulars, but if any important letters were sent to the Mission at that time they were lost with the steamer. I got no mail papers or letters, so that all must have been lost.

My family and I are in good health. The children at the mission are well as usual. I received a letter from brother Rice, written at Cape Palmas, March 16th. He and lady suffered very much with chills and fever from the time they left Monrovia—to which place Mrs. Kistler and I accompanied them—until up to the time he wrote. They left the Mission on the 3d of March.

The spiritual interests in our little church are about as favorable as I could expect. On the comming Sabbath we will have our quarterly communion, when I expect to receive a few children into church-fellowship. The school for many months has been badly cared for; I am now trying to employ a teacher—though I do it without permission from the committtee—until help comes from America.

On the farm things look encouraging. We have had much rain during the present dries, which has been very favorable to the coffee trees planted last season. We are cutting a farm along the river so as to have a finer few of the river, it is also excellent land and will no doubt produce a large crop of rice and cassada. The married boys are busily cutting their farms. It has been predicted that our children would do as most of other heathen children have done at all the Mission stations in Africa—go to the bush when free. But history and facts are proving the contrary. Our children are furnished with homes and they could not be driven from these homes—they love them and they expect to abide in them.

J. KISTLER.

Muhlenberg Mission, March 31*st*, 1865.

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